

Sheikh Zayed due in Syria today

ABU DHABI (R) — The presidents of the United Arab Emirates and Syria meet in Damascus on Saturday for talks on Gulf events, including tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia over the deaths of pilgrims in Mecca last month. Diplomatic sources said UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad may try to find a way to heal the divisions between Iran and Saudi Arabia over the incident. They noted both leaders enjoy good ties with the two countries. The UAE newspaper Al Itihad said Friday that the Mecca events and the July 20 United Nations Security Council resolution ordering a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war were on the agenda during Sheikh Zayed's three-day state visit. Sheikh Zayed sent an envoy with a letter to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd last week after a meeting here with an Iranian envoy. The UAE president is also expected to enlist Syria's good connections with Tehran in the interest of ending the Iran-Iraq war. Developments of the seven-year-old conflict are heightening tension in the region which supplies 20 per cent of the fuel needs of the non-communist world.

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Waldheim and Kohl meet

VIENNA (R) — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim has held his first meeting with a Western government leader since he was barred entry by the United States in April because of allegations over his World War II record in the German army. A spokesman for Dr. Waldheim said Friday he and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl had dinner on Thursday at the president's summer residence in Nussdorf am Attersee. They discussed bilateral relations and the international situation. Pope John Paul received Dr. Waldheim at the Vatican last June. Austria meanwhile began distributing a 500-page book intended for use by its ambassadors in refuting allegations that Dr. Waldheim was linked to war crimes during World War II. A Foreign Ministry official said copies of the book, compiled in English by Dr. Waldheim's son Gerhard and ministry officials, had been sent to all Austrian envoys abroad. It supports Dr. Waldheim's rejection of allegations that he played a role in deporting Jews and others while serving in the German army in Greece and Yugoslavia between 1942 and 1945.

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King congratulates India, South Korea and Pakistan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Friday sent cables of congratulations to the presidents of India and South Korea on the occasion of India's Independence Day and South Korea's National Day. In his cables, the King congratulated Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman and South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan and wished their peoples more prosperity and development. On Thursday, King Hussein sent a cable to Pakistani President Zia ul Haq congratulating him on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. King Hussein wished President Zia and the Pakistani people more progress and prosperity.

Israel closes Arab weekly

TEL AVIV (R) — A weekly Arab newspaper in the town of Nazareth has been accused of expressing extreme nationalist views and ordered to close by the Interior Ministry. Al Jahamir was shut down for "security" reasons after ignoring a ministry warning. A ministry official said, Palestinian sources told Reuters the newspaper planned to challenge in court what it said were false accusations that it supported the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

3 more charged in London robbery

LONDON (AP) — Police have charged three more people in connection with the estimated £30-million (\$47-million) robbery of a London safe deposit company, bringing to seven the number charged. Scotland Yard said on Friday police investigating the July 12 robbery recovered several million pounds worth of jewelry and silverware in a raid on a house in north London. The police estimate of cash, jewels and other valuables taken from the Knightsbridge safe deposit centre across the street from Harrods department store, makes it the richest robbery in British history.

Junblatt said seeking Waite's release

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Druze leader Walid Junblatt has met Iranian and pro-Iranian officials in a bid to secure the freedom of missing British church envoy Terry Waite, the weekly Al Shiraa magazine reported. "The direct and first purpose (of the meetings) is the issue of the kidnapping of Anglican envoy Terry Waite," Al Shiraa said in its latest edition. It said Mr. Junblatt was expected to visit Iran and might meet Iran's revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Habib quits as C.American envoy

WASHINGTON (R) — Philip Habib resigned on Friday as President Reagan's special envoy to Central America as the administration announced a new diplomatic initiative to help implement a peace plan for the region. State Department spokesman Charles Redman, who announced Mr. Habib's resignation, said the respected diplomat considered it an appropriate time to depart but refused to elaborate.

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Iraqi planes blast Iran's Hawk battery

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi warplanes on Friday blasted a U.S.-made anti-aircraft Hawk battery in the north-eastern Iranian town of Tabriz, a Baghdad military spokesman said.

Quoted by Baghdad Radio, he said the battery was completely destroyed before the planes all swept back safely to base.

The attacking aircraft penetrated Iranian air-defence units to reach the site of the battery at 8:50 (0350 GMT), the spokesman said.

The raid was the second in the Tabriz area this week. Iraq on Monday ended a 25-day break in air attacks on Iranian territory, hitting an oil refinery at Tabriz and five other oil sites in central and southern Iran.

Military analysts believe Iraqi pilots spotted the anti-aircraft battery while raiding the refinery. The government newspaper Al Jamhuriya said Friday Iraq was ready to deal fresh blows against Iran while awaiting implementation of the July 20 U.N. Security Council resolution calling for an immediate Gulf war ceasefire and steps to ensure compliance.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz on Friday called for immediate implementation of the resolution.

In a letter to the U.N. secretary-general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, he said Iran had committed ten acts of armed aggression against Iraq since the resolution was passed.

Iraq's National Assembly endorsed the resolution provided Iran did likewise, but Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Thursday it was unacceptable because it did not brand Iraq as the "aggressor."

The Defence Ministry daily Al Qadisiya on Friday described Iran's response to Mr. Perez de Cuellar as immoral. "The response, in content and form, embodied Iranian rulers' degraded morals and proved once again that those whom invisible hands brought to power lacked not only the sense of responsibility, but the protocol of good manners."

Al Qadisiya said Iranian rulers' rejection of the resolution would not help them achieve their wicked aims. "On the contrary, it pushed their regime

farther into suffocating isolation," it added.

Iraq on Thursday denied that Iran shot down four of its helicopter gunships in Gulf war action. A military spokesman challenged Iran to produce "one piece of evidence" for the claim, made earlier on Tehran Radio, and said all Iraqi flights had returned safely to base from war-front missions.

Baghdad said in a war communiqué that its warplanes flew 103 combat missions over Iranian positions, inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment.

Meanwhile, Iran is claiming it has a right to use chemical weapons in retaliation against Iraqi chemical attacks, according to a U.N. letter revealed Thursday.

In the letter to Mr. Perez de Cuellar, Iran entered a temporary reservation to the 1925 Geneva ban on chemical warfare, arguing it has a right to retaliate against the alleged Iraqi attacks. The letter was addressed to Mr. Perez de Cuellar by Mr. Velayati.

According to U.S. officials quoted by American newspapers, the United States expects the U.N. Security Council to agree to

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Next escort convoy gets ready; Iran poised for 'manoeuvres'

Fujairah declared free of mines but new fears raised over 'remote-controlled booby-trapped boats'

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Another American convoy was getting ready here on Friday for the dash down the Gulf as the Iranian navy was due to start minesweeping exercises in or just outside the waterway.

Shipping sources said three re-flagged Kuwaiti tankers which arrived here earlier this week under U.S. navy escort were loading gas and oil products and would be finished by Saturday morning.

Departure date of the convoy south would not be disclosed, they added.

The Iranian navy was scheduled to begin minesweeping exercises in international waters on Friday after accusing the United States of its regional allies of laying mines.

Fujairah port at the entrance of the Gulf was declared clear of all mines on Friday after the United Arab Emirates (UAE) armed forces detonated a mine floating in the anchorage.

"UAE coasts are clear of mines

and shipping is safe in our territorial waters," a Fujairah police statement said. At least five mines were found in the anchorage earlier this week, one of which booby-trapped a tanker.

Port officials said the armed forces detonated the last mine found drifting in the anchorage Friday night. They had no comment on the fate of another declared missing by coast guards two days ago.

An official at Fujairah airport said that a ban on civilian flying over the anchorage during daylight hours imposed on Thursday had been lifted.

"It is all clear now," he said. Fujairah port officials said an Indian tanker captain reported spotting a black object, possibly a mine, near his anchorage 25 kilometres off Khor Fakkan just outside the Gulf.

A military helicopter flew over the location but could not find anything, they said. Reporters in helicopters also surveyed the area but saw nothing untoward.

However, ships kept away from the main anchorage area off Fujairah on Friday despite the assurances that it had been cleared of floating mines, shipping executives reported.

The Sharjah-based newspaper Al Khaleej meanwhile quoted a UAE official as warning of the possible existence of small "booby-trapped boats operated by remote control" in the same waters outside the Strait of Hormuz.

The UAE ministry of agriculture Thursday warned fishermen and swimmers from approaching "suspicious objects and small boats on the eastern coast of the country."

Assistant under-secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Hamad Al Mutawa said the warning was issued following a report from the Ministry of Interior about the possibility that booby-trapped vessels might be set loose in the waters. There was no elaboration as to what raised that

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Iran: Blasts in Tunisia were 'warning'

TUNIS (AP) — The recent explosions at four tourist resorts in Tunisia were a warning to the country's leaders, Tehran Radio said Friday.

"The explosions that occurred in seaside hotels in Tunisia, which are dens of entertainment and loose behaviour for tourists from Arab countries, constitute a serious warning to the Tunisian leaders and their Western supporters," said Tehran Radio, monitored in London.

The Tunisian government has blamed the opposition Islamic Tendency Movement (MIT) for a series of terrorist bombings at coastal resort hotels Aug. 2 that injured 13 people, including 12 foreign tourists.

Tourism is a pillar of the economy of this former French colony.

The radio commentary said the Islamic movement had grown and expanded in Tunisia and did not need to be dependent on a "source providing it with strength and guidelines."

Tunisia broke diplomatic relations with Iran in March, accusing the Islamic republic of using its embassy to encourage violent opposition.

Saudi envoy says Iran distorting truth of Haj riots

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — The Saudi Arabian ambassador on Friday blamed Iran for the recent killings in Mecca because he said its leaders "hatched a conspiracy to sabotage the Haj and masterminded the political demonstration."

Sheikh Fouad S. Moufti told a news conference: "The whole world has strongly condemned the rioting by Iranian pilgrims."

Saudi Arabia says that 402 people were killed in rioting and stampede on July 31 in Mecca after Iranian pilgrims went on a rampage during the Haj.

The victims included 275 Iranians, 85 Saudi security forces and 42 other pilgrims.

Iran says that more than 600 Iranians are dead or missing from the rioting. It claims Saudi Arabian police opened fire on "instructions" from the United States which has close military ties to Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia says not a single shot was fired.

On Friday, Sheikh Fouad, the ambassador, showed journalists a video film of the demonstration. It showed Iranian pilgrims battling with police with sticks and stones. Demonstrators were seen setting vehicles ablaze.

"Iran had not got permission for the demonstration, Iranian

rulers hatched a conspiracy to sabotage the Haj," he said.

"It is very clear that Iranians want to export their revolution to the Muslim world," the ambassador said.

When asked whether Iranian pilgrims would still be allowed to visit Mecca and Medina, the ambassador said, Saudi Arabia wanted to settle the problem with peace and goodwill because "revenge is not allowed in Islam."

Commenting on Iran's allegations that the United States was behind the killing of Iranian pilgrims, the ambassador said: "It is a very silly allegation."

"They (Iranians) demonstrated, they started this act of terrorism. We have done only our duty," he said.

Iran claimed on Friday heavily-armed Saudi security agents broke up an Iranian prayer meeting in Medina Thursday night, beating and arresting a number of pilgrims.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, gave no other details of the incident but said Iran's chief official at the pilgrimage, Mehdi Karroubi, had been barred from the city.

The bodies of 58 Iranian pilgrims killed in the violence were flown back from Saudi Arabia on

(Continued on page 3)

Israelis shoot and wound Arab

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers on Friday shot a Palestinian in the head in the occupied West Bank town of Nablus, a military spokesman said.

According to the spokesman, the incident occurred after a bomb was thrown at soldiers in the town.

Soldiers, carrying out a search in the town's narrow alleys, encountered the man who they claimed was about to throw a bomb. The patrol opened fire, hitting him in the head. The man was rushed to hospital.

Foreigners assaulted by Israeli soldiers

On Thursday, Israeli police

said they injured two foreigners and arrested six others when they dispersed a protest outside the U.S. consulate in Arab Jerusalem against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Eyewitnesses quoted by AP said police fired tear-gas at some 50 foreign sympathisers of the Palestinian cause, mostly Americans and West Europeans, and clubbed several of them in front of the consulate.

"One of them hit (a protester) once hard on the top of the head. At that point blood came spurting out of his skull. It was running down his hair and the back of his neck and there was a pool of blood that collected on the floor," one American eyewitness told AP. Before police arrived the de-

monstration had been peaceful, though noisy protesters shouted slogans against Israeli occupation, the eyewitnesses said.

Most of the demonstrators were foreigners who do voluntary work in Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

An official at Birzeit University said later the demonstrators had been protesting against the detention of a Palestinian, arrested in a night raid on a university-sponsored summer work camp.

He said two Belgians, Willem Defieu and Dietmar Truyel, suffered injuries in the clash with police.

Those arrested included Belgian Abraham Franssen, Englishman Mark Sivell Muller and two American Palestinians.

Klibi urges energetic U.N. move to stop Iran from pursuing war

PARIS (Agencies) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi called on the United Nations on Friday to adopt energetic measures aimed at stopping Iran from pursuing the seven-year-old Gulf war.

Addressing reporters after talks with President Francois Mitterrand, Mr. Klibi said: "I prefer not to talk of sanctions — it is not a question of sanctioning Iran. The international community should take steps which would make Iran unable to damage the region by pursuing the war."

Iraq has accepted a demand by U.N. Security Council for an immediate ceasefire in the war. Iran has criticised the call, but maintains it has not rejected it. Mr. Klibi confirmed that Arab foreign ministers would meet in Tunis on Aug. 23 to discuss the Iran-Iraq war.

Jordan renews support for Iraq

In what was seen as Iraqi moves to coordinate positions prior to the Aug. 23 talks, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz visited Amman and was received by His Majesty King Hussein on Thursday.

In his talks with Mr. Aziz, the King reiterated Jordan's unlimited support for Iraq in its endeavours to defend Arab soil and repeated Jordan's backing for current international efforts

to bring an end to the Gulf war. Mr. Aziz conveyed to the King a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Mr. Aziz told Petra later that the Iraqi president's message expressed Iraq's appreciation of Jordan's support for Iraq in its just cause.

Upon leaving for home at the end of his visit, Mr. Aziz said he briefed the King on the latest developments in the Gulf region and threats confronting the Arab nation and also Iraq's views about means of enhancing solidarity among Arab countries in the face of common threats.

The King's meeting with Mr. Aziz was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and the director of the Arab Department at Iraq's Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Aziz earlier held a meeting with Mr. Masri to review current Arab affairs in general and the Iran-Iraq war in particular and also Iran's escalating threats in the Gulf region. The two ministers also discussed topics on the agenda of the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis on Aug. 23.

Mr. Aziz told Petra that the talks were aimed at formulating a unified Arab stand vis-a-vis the Aug. 23 meeting, and also Iranian aggression in the Gulf.

Police action injures 76 S. African miners

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — South Africa's largest gold producer said police and mine security guards fired rubber bullets at 700 armed black strikers at a gold mine west of Johannesburg on Friday, injuring 76.

Anglo American Co. said strikers were armed with machetes and gasoline bombs and threw stones when ordered to disperse. It said eight were hospitalised, four in serious condition.

Cyril Ramaphosa, general-secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), said 78 miners at the Western Deep Levels gold mine were injured and that seven were hospitalised.

He said Anglo American had sealed off the mine to prevent union officials from talking to members.

Earlier, a union spokesman said it appeared the strikers were singing outside their residential bungalows when police were in called at 4 a.m.

Anglo American is South Africa's largest gold producer and its gold and coal mines have been the most seriously affected among six major mining houses in the five-day-old wage and benefits strike by the 300,000-member union.

The NUM, which has mobilised an independently estimated 300,000 strikers, accused police of barbaric behaviour Thursday night in breaking up a sit-in at the Ergo plant, east of Johannesburg, where gold is reclaimed from mine dumps.

It said some of the 950 strikers occupying the plant had been beaten up when police moved in to evict them. According to the NUM, 23 men were arrested and seven seriously injured.

Ergo management had accused strikers of sabotaging the plant by pouring tonnes of sulphuric acid into machinery.

Kabul says rebels downed plane, killing 12

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan guerrillas shot down a transport plane with a U.S.-made Stinger missile on Thursday, killing 12 people, Kabul Radio said.

The dead were five crew and seven passengers including two children, it said.

The radio, monitored in Islamabad, said the Soviet-made AN-26 aircraft crashed after it was hit over Mangal Valley.

It was on a flight from Kabul to the eastern town of Khost.

Th radio said the plane was carrying goods from Kabul to Khost.

It blamed the shooting on "extremist elements," a term the Soviet-backed Afghan government uses for Western-backed guerrillas fighting to overthrow it.

Chad reports repulsing Libyans

N'DJAMENA (R) — Libyan troops launched a ground attack Friday morning on the town of Aouzou in a disputed border region, but were driven back, the Chadian armed forces announced.

It was the first reported attempt by the Libyans to retake the Aouzou Strip, which was recaptured by Chad last weekend after 14 years under Libyan control.

The military communique read over N'Djamena Radio said Libyan air and ground forces attacked Aouzou town at 6 a.m. local time (0500 GMT) but were repulsed.

Chad has reported daily waves of Libyan air raids on the Aouzou region and adjacent parts of northern Chad since the troops of President Hissene Habre thrust into the disputed strip on Saturday.

Friday's communique said that casualty figures would be announced later.

The Chadians had expected retaliation for their move into Aouzou, which they called was in response to Libyan advances into Chadian territory through the Tibesti mountains just south of the Aouzou Strip.

Libya has said repeatedly that it is determined to recapture the border strip, which it says is an integral part of Libya under a treaty signed by colonial powers France and Italy in 1935 but never ratified.

Chad said 650 Libyans were killed and 147 captured in last Saturday's battle.

Both sides have said that they are ready to work for a peaceful solution, but neither has appeared willing to move on their claims to the Aouzou Strip, a 110,000-square-kilometre band of desert reputed to hold valuable minerals.

French Defence Minister Andre Giraud said earlier this week that France would not limit possible military action to southern Chad, although it has refused to embroil its sizeable forces there in Mr. Habre's drive to take Aouzou.

N'Djamena said earlier Friday that Libyan bombing continued over most of the northern Chad and the Aouzou Strip overnight.


The radio quoted a military communique as saying Libyan aircraft raided the areas of Zouar and Bardai, in the north-western Tibesti Mountains, as well as the former Libyan air base of Ouadi-Doum and the government-held outpost of Ounianga-Kebir, further east.

The statement did not give casualty figures for those bombings or describe the damage.

France to boost anti-mine force

PARIS (R) — A third minesweeper will be added to a French naval squadron due to sail for the Gulf region next week, the Defence Ministry announced Friday.

France said earlier that it would send two minesweepers to join a task force led by the aircraft carrier Clemenceau which is already in the Indian Ocean. A ministry statement said Friday the Vinh-Long would now join the Garigliano and Cantho which are due to sail from the Mediterranean port of Toulon on Monday with the supply ship Garonne.



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U.S. blames Iran for mines, says Tehran is buying more

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States says Iran almost certainly planted the mines being found outside the Gulf in order to damage a U.S. convoy, although it says it has no proof.

It has also accused Tehran of apparently shopping for more mines to boost its war effort.

Defence Department spokesman Robert Sims said Thursday the mines found this week off the United Arab Emirates (UAE) port of Fujairah were presumably aimed at the most recent convoy of Kuwaiti tankers and U.S. warships forming there for a voyage into the Gulf.

That convoy, the second since the United States began escorting U.S.-registered Kuwaiti tankers last month, steamed into the Gulf last Saturday through the Strait of Hormuz from the Gulf of Oman.

"Almost certainly the ones that were placed in the Gulf of Oman were, like others, placed by Iran. We have no specific evidence of that, but that's a general assessment," he said.

At least five mines were found this week off Fujairah. One tore a hole in the U.S.-operated supertanker Texaco Caribbean which was carrying Iranian oil.

Mr. Sims said Iran's capability

probably was growing "as they purchase additional mines."

He declined to discuss who might be selling, but other officials said at least some of those recovered apparently were built by North Korea from World War I Soviet designs.

Mr. Sims called on the United Nations to consider sanctions to discourage sales of mines and other weapons to Iran or Iraq, whose seven-year-old war threatens oil shipments.

The United States initially avoided publicly blaming Iran for mines, though officials privately suggested Tehran was responsible for the one that damaged the oil tanker Bridgeton on July 24 during the first U.S.-escorted convoy.

When asked the day after the Bridgeton incident whether the United States should retaliate against Iran, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said such an action was not being considered because blame could not be fixed.

Last weekend Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger suggested publicly for the first time that Iran was behind the Gulf mines.

Earlier Mr. Weinberger too had avoided naming Iran. In a televised interview on July 26, two days after the incident, he gave no indication he knew who laid the mine.

"If we find the party that laid the mines we are perfectly capable of taking retaliatory steps," he said.

Mr. Sims said Thursday the amphibious assault ship Guadalcanal was steaming toward the Gulf from the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia.

Guadalcanal, with eight RH-53D Stallion minehunting helicopters aboard, is incapable of carrying more than 1,700 Marines and their battle gear. Mr. Sims said Marines were not aboard.

Britain and France announced they are sending minesweepers to the Gulf. Iran warned it will strike at the United States and threatened the approaching French and British ships.

The United States placed 11 Kuwaiti tankers under the American flag to protect them from possible attack from Iran, which

regards Kuwait as an ally of Iraq. Iran accused the United States and its allies of mining the Gulf of Oman and asked the UAE for permission to send minebusting ships and helicopters there.

Mr. Sims, asked whether the Pentagon would welcome Iranian minesweeping assistance, said: "I think we'd welcome the participation of countries not placing mines and that might solve everyone's problem."

The United States continues to operate nine ships in the region, including the flagship USS Zumwalt. Mr. Sims said reports of "some monstrous buildup" were not true.

He welcomed the decisions by Britain and France, announced Tuesday, to send minesweepers to the Gulf, but said there was no overall plan to coordinate their activities.

"It's a matter of each country doing what it sees as in its own interest in terms of protecting its shipping," he said.

The United States would also welcome cooperation from other European nations known for their minesweeping capabilities, notably Belgium and The Netherlands, Mr. Sims said.

Lebanese kidnappers free Kano

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Kidnappers have freed a prominent Middle East official of the International Lions Club, 11 months after grabbing him in mainly Muslim west Beirut, police said Friday.

They said Victor Kano, 51, was set free at the suburban town of Shweifat at 11:30 p.m. (2030 GMT) Thursday and spent the night at his home in west Beirut's Verdun neighbourhood.

Kano, a wealthy Christian businessman who headed the 39 International Lions Club in Lebanon and Jordan, was kidnapped near the French embassy compound on Sept. 10, 1986, by three men armed with silencer-equipped pistols.

No group has claimed responsibility for the abduction. Police spokesmen have speculated that ransom was the motive, but none could confirm on Friday whether a ransom has been paid.

"He's in good shape. Physically he's ok. We're happy to have him with us," Kano's wife, Rose, told the Associated Press.

A smiling Mrs. Kano, flanked by her son and daughter, said her husband rang the door bell at 1:30 a.m. Friday (2230 GMT). "I opened the door and he simply walked in. We were very happy to see him," Mrs. Kano said.

She said her husband was clean-shaven and wearing the same suit he wore on the day he was kidnapped.

The house was full of well-wishers, but Mrs. Kano was at his bedroom. His wife said he wants to rest for a few days and does not want to see reporters or photographers. "We're trying to keep a low profile," she added.

A police spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, had earlier quoted Mrs. Kano as saying that she was grateful to Lebanese and Syrian authorities for helping win her husband's freedom.

Mr. Kano, a naturalised Lebanese born in Syria, runs a prosperous import-export business in both sectors of the Lebanese capital.

The Lions Clubs are among the few social institutions that maintained their existence despite the 12-year-old civil war that has claimed nearly 130,000 lives and strained Lebanon's social fabric.

The Lebanese Lions Club continued to hold Christmas and New Year receptions in west Beirut restaurants despite the growing influence of pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim fundamentalists opposed to the Western mode of life.

Police officials have previously said they believed Mr. Kano's kidnapping was not related to a wave of renewed abductions of Americans in west Beirut.

A day before Mr. Kano was kidnapped, gunmen abducted American educator Frank Herbert Reed, 53, of Malden, Massachusetts. The pro-Libyan Arab Revolutionary Cells-Omar Moukhtar Forces claimed responsibility for the abduction.

Democrats call Iran policy a mistake

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The opposition Democratic Party responded to President Reagan's speech on the Iran-contra affair by calling his Iran policy a basic mistake beyond mere implementation errors.

Democratic Senator George Mitchell, a member of the Iran-contra investigating committee, delivered his political party's reply on national television after the president finished his own broadcast address. Sen. Mitchell condemned the U.S. sale of arms to the Khomenei regime in Iran.

"That was a mistake," Sen. Mitchell declared, "that left American policy against terrorism in ruins."

"Let there be no misunderstanding," he said. "The mistakes were not only in the execution of policies. The major mistakes were in the policies themselves."

He added, however, that once those mistakes were "recognised and corrected, they should be put behind us. For there's much to be done together."

Other leading members of

Congress, away from the capital for summer recess, reacted mildly.

"There's no question that the independent counsel will proceed, probably with several indictments" in the Iran-contra affair, said Republican Representative Henry Hyde, a member of the investigating committee.

"So I don't think this issue is going to go away."

"However, I don't think it should inhibit Congress, nor the White House, in getting on with the agenda that the president outlined tonight," he said.

House Democratic leader Thomas Foley, also a member of the special investigating committee, said he "would have hoped that the president would have been a little more specific in supporting the decision of the five Central American presidents to come to an agreement and to move forward on a programme of peace in Central America."

Mr. Foley's assistant Democratic leader, Representative Tony Coelho, said that "if the president really means that we want

move into bipartisan foreign policy and other matters that are pending before the Congress, it's something that we, as Democratic leaders have been asking for, for several years with this president. The only indication that that may be true, is in the Central American initiative."

House Iran-contra committee Chairman Lee Hamilton said "the president went a long way in acknowledging his responsibility for the events that occurred."

But, Mr. Hamilton added, "he leaves, in my mind at least, a large number of unanswered questions that, as one of the committee members, I would like to have seen him address."

"The president was right in wanting to shift the focus now to the events that we have to tackle in the remaining months of his administration. I don't think it's possible to put these events or the Iran-contra affair behind him or behind the nation. These questions are going to re-occur, but clearly our major energy and focus should be on the future."

Close vote expected in Israeli cabinet over Lavi

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli officials Friday forecast a close vote on Sunday when the government decides whether it can afford to continue a costly seven-year-old project to build the Lavi fighter.

State radio said the cabinet, under pressure from the army, the Defence and Finance ministries and the United States to scrap the warplane project, was divided 10-11 with three cabinet ministers undecided.

The debate will be the seventh since Washington urged Israel to drop the project in January. Israel has spent \$1.5 billion, most of it in U.S. aid, on the Lavi.

An opinion poll in the newspaper Maariv Friday showed 63 per cent of the public favoured continuing the project in some form.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, leader of the Labour Party, told reporters the project must continue if the money could be found.

Israeli generals say the country should buy less costly U.S.-made F-16 fighters.

Gemayel proposes more political power for Shi'ites

WASHINGTON (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel has promised greater political power to the country's Shiite community in a move to strengthen the central government.

Mr. Gemayel voiced his determination that Lebanon, "as a nation state with a central government... shall endure" in an interview with the Washington-based monthly "Lebanese Affairs."

He said it was essential to disarm the various militias which "have become accustomed to acting above the laws."

"In order to reduce their influence, a political accommodation needs to be reached and the institutions of the central government strengthened," Mr. Gemayel said.

He said he was proposing the abolition of political confessionalism, which has dictated the allocation of leadership posts in Lebanon, "and I am proposing a rigorous mechanism to attain this objective in the near future."

In the meantime, Mr. Gemayel said, "the Shiite community deserves greater power than it has had, and this is accounted for in

my reform proposals."

He said: The number of Shi'ite deputies will be increased; the powers of the Shi'ite speaker of parliament will be enhanced, and new positions in the power structure will be allocated to the Shi'ite community.

Mr. Gemayel also denied reports he planned to resign, and added the speaker now had withdrawn his own resignation.

Mr. Gemayel's interview was reprinted in the Congressional Record, the official account of congressional activities, on motion of Democratic Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts.

In a speech submitted to the interview for publication in the record, Mr. Kerry said Mr. Gemayel, "realising that Lebanon's republican system of government no longer adequately reflects the actual population distribution, has presented a plan to give a greater voice to underrepresented groups."

"He emphasises a willingness to discuss any aspect of his proposal, and views it as a catalyst for future discussions. I urge other Lebanese leaders to join in these discussions."

U.S. reportedly got videotape of Abu Nidal

By James M. Dorsey

WASHINGTON — Syria has provided U.S. intelligence with a videotape of Abu Nidal, the world's most shadowy and wanted terrorist, and several hundred of his followers, according to U.S. and Western intelligence sources.

Abu Nidal, a code name for Palestinian-born Sabri al Banna, and up to 500 of his followers were filmed earlier this year as they left Damascus following a Syrian expulsion order, the sources said.

The tape allows U.S. intelligence to identify not only Abu

Nidal, who is reported to change his appearance with regularity, but other members of his Fateh Revolutionary Council — a secretive, cell-like organisation founded in 1974 after Abu Nidal was ousted from the Palestine Liberation Organisation. A PLO tribunal sentenced Abu Nidal to death for attempting to assassinate PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, whom he accused of betraying the Palestinian cause.

Some reports say that aides to Abu Nidal have deliberately circulated false pictures so that he would not be recognised.

In a rare interview with a West German magazine in 1983, Abu Nidal said his physical appearance

was a closely held secret that not even his daughter would be able to recognise him. He boasted about slipping unrecognized across the borders of countries where he is on the most wanted list. He attempted to prove his identity to the magazine by exhibiting a scar on his chest.

Syria expelled Abu Nidal in an apparent effort to demonstrate its opposition to terrorism and improve its strained relations with the United States. The United States withdrew its ambassador from Damascus last year after Syria allegedly sponsored a failed attempt to bomb an Israeli airliner at London's Heathrow Airport — The Washington Times.

U.S. calls for comprehensive peace talks in Gulf

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States and the community of nations cannot agree to a partial cessation to the Gulf conflict between Iraq and Iran, according to a State Department official.

In a background briefing at the Foreign Press Centre Thursday, the official said, "There is no way that you can compartmentalise or take off one side of the war and say that that part of the war can end but the others should go on. That is not an approach that we agree with or the community of nations agrees with."

"What is necessary is for Iranian officials to meet with the (United Nations) secretary general to discuss the implementation of the (U.N. Security Council) resolution as soon as possible. It is important to end the fighting on all fronts: air, sea and land."

The United States strongly supports settlement of the conflict through the United Nations, the official emphasised, pointing out that the United States and the Soviet Union as well as the other members of the Security Council "worked... cooperatively and very constructively together" in developing a U.N. resolution which was adopted unanimously.

"I think it proves to the world that the nations of the international community, including the two superpowers, can sit down together and work out a constructive solution to that conflict through the United Nations," the official said.

Questioned on the U.S. role in the Middle East peace process, he said the United States "is not committed to an international peace conference." However, he

added, the U.S. is working intensively with parties in the region to bring about conditions for face to face negotiations.

"We are engaged very intensively with the parties in the region to see if an international conference can be worked out to lead to that result — the result of peace. But we don't know for sure if it's going to work out."

When pressed for more specifics, he said, "We are trying... to get the parties to a point where they can sit down together and work out differences without interference from the outside — because they have to live with it — they have to decide what is right for them."

Asked to elaborate on Mr. Charles Hill's visit to Israel and his talks with Israeli officials, the State Department official said Mr. Hill discussed a number of issues relating to both peace process and bilateral issues between the United States and Israel.

"Secretary Shultz, last Thursday, dealt with how the personal views of the mission of Mr. Hill, and I do not have to go into that. You have the secretary's words on that."

"We have been trying, as you all know, for the longest time — it has been several years of intensive engagement by the United States with the parties in the region — to try to bring about direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbours," the official said.

"We feel that the only way you can resolve the conflict between the Arabs and Israelis is to work about face-to-face bilateral negotiations where the parties can sit down, discuss their differences

and work them out themselves. "Secondly, Palestinians also have to be involved every step of the way. This is something we have said continually. Whatever we have been trying to work out has been to see if any of these suggestions can result in these direct negotiations that we are talking about and peace," the official said. "You cannot have one without the other. In other words, the goal has to remain a peace between Israel and its neighbours and to resolve the problems that have been festering in the area for forty years."

"This year we have begun to look very seriously and very intensively at whether an international conference could be so constructed as to lead immediately to these face-to-face negotiations without interfering with (unstable) without imposing solutions."

"There have been this spring — I think I reported to you — there had been considerable progress towards meeting those objectives, meeting some of the reservations that we and others have had about the international conference concept."

"As you know, in the beginning of July, Mr. Murphy met with his Soviet counterpart Ambassador Vladimir Polyakov in Geneva to see where the Soviet position is on the subject of peace in the Middle East. We got a better view of the Soviets' viewpoint. There are still some issues that they have to deal with and they should really get back to us on them," the official said.

The U.S. official denied any difference of opinion between the president and Mr. Shultz on the

issue of peace in the Middle East or an international conference.

The State Department official reiterated the U.S. commitment to Mideast peace stressing that the U.S. is trying to find ways of reaching a peaceful settlement of the issues that have been confronting Arabs and Israelis all of these years.

"We have looked at the old solutions and we have looked at new ideas. What we are trying to see is if an international conference, so constructed, could lead immediately to face-to-face bilateral negotiations but not interfere with them. The purpose is to have the bilateral talks, the geographic talks; in other words, the parties on the ground facing each other discussing those issues."

"We have no illusions about it that they are going to come together and suddenly decide they agree on everything. We would not anticipate anything like that. I think it would be naive to do so. Their views on the issue of peace in the Middle East differ."

"The point is, what we want to do is to be able to get them together and that no outside power should be able to interfere in their direct talks because it is they, after all, who have to live with the results."

On U.S.-Syrian dialogue the official said the sanctions that were announced last year are still in effect.

"However we are looking for ways to broaden the dialogue and normalise the dialogue with Syria. There are various things under consideration. It is not for me to announce anything today."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 73111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:35	Programme Review
15:45	Moby Dick
16:20	Children series
16:50	Scientific programme for children
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:15	Little Princess
17:40	Documentary on Art
18:05	Local series
19:15	Message from Iraq
19:30	Local family programme
19:50	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:40	Arabic series
21:30	Seminar on local issues
21:55	Tomorrow's programme
22:00	Arabic play
22:30	News Summary in Arabic
23:10	Play comic
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 KHz. SW Tel: 74111-19	
07:00	Morning Show
07:30	Newsdesk
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:05	Morning Show Cont.
11:00	The Guller Grass
12:00	News Summary
12:05	38 years of American Top Ten Hits
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session
14:00	News Bulletin
14:15	Jordan Weekly
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:05	Instrumental/Old favourites
17:00	Special Feature
17:30	Music
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Top Twenty
19:00	Newsdesk/Music

WHAT'S GOING ON

CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre	Tel. 6610267
American Centre	644371
American Centre Library	641520
British Council	6361478
French Cultural Centre	637009
Goethe Institute	641993
Soviet Cultural Centre	644203
Spanish Cultural Centre	620409
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777
United Arts Centre	637009
Hussien Youth City	6671816
Y.W.C.A.	641793
Y.W.M.C.A.	644251
Amman Music Library	637111
Univ. of Jordan Library	843535
SERVICE CLUBS	
The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m.	
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.	
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.	
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.	
Royal Automobile Club. Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816334, 817534.	
MUSEUMS	
"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Hays Arts Centre, open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.	
Folklore Museum. Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum. Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery. Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muzeh, Jabel Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.	
Marilyn's Memorial Military Museum. Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Luweibdeh, Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, Tel. 661575.	
Terra Sancta Church (Roman Catholic). Jabel Luweibdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.	
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, Tel. 623383.	
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 772361.	
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.	
Amman International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Samseini, Tel. 677534.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabel Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 811295.	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

FOR AIR TRAVELLERS

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 532025, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:45	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
08:15	Cairo (RJ)
10:30	Damascus (RJ)
10:30	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:40	Sana'a, Jeddah (RJ)
10:45	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:50	Dhahran (RJ)
10:55	Sharjah, Bahrain (RJ)
11:00	Agaba (RJ)
12:00	Cairo (RJ)
12:35	New York, Vienna (RJ)
12:40	Athens (RJ)
12:45	Moscow (RJ)
12:45	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
13:15	Istanbul (RJ)
13:15	Kuwait (add.) (RJ)
13:40	Tripoli (RJ)
13:45	Baghdad (RJ)
13:55	Jeddah (add.) (RJ)
14:45	Madrid (add.) (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

02:30	Belgrade, Istanbul (JU)
02:30	Jeddah (SV)
12:00	Baghdad (IA)
12:30	Cairo (SV)
12:35	Sharjah, Bahrain (GF)
13:20	Kuwait (KU)
13:40	Tripoli (LI)
15:00	Riyadh (SV)
15:30	Paris, Damascus (AF)
19:15	Kuwait (KU)
19:15	Beirut (ME)
20:10	Rome (AZ)
06:25	Frankfurt (LH)

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

04:30	Dhahran (RJ)
05:45	Agaba (RJ)
09:00	Moscow (RJ)
11:45	Tripoli (RJ)
12:00	Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:00	Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12:30	Athens (RJ)
12:55	Geneva, Paris (RJ)
13:00	London (RJ)
13:15	Frankfurt, Brussels (LH)

20:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
20:30	Kuwait (KU)
20:30	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:55	Baghdad (RJ)
21:00	Jeddah (RJ)
21:15	Cairo (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

02:35	Istanbul, Belgrade (JU)
06:20	Frankfurt (LH)
07:00	Cairo, London (BA)
12:00	Baghdad (KU)
14:00	Cairo (add.) (RJ)
14:45	Doha, Sana'a (GF)
15:25	Kuwait (KU)
16:40	Kuwait (LI)
17:00	Riyadh (SV)
20:30	Kuwait (KU)
20:30	Kuwait (add.) (KU)

PRAYER TIMES

04:35	Fajr
05:00	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:40	Dhuhr
16:19	'Asr
19:21	Maghrib
20:46	Isha

MONEY EXCHANGE

Thursday rates

Local sell/buy rates in ffs

Belgian franc	87.9	88.8
Dutch guilder	162.1	164
French franc	54.7	55.4
Italian lire	25.2	25.5
Japanese yen (for 100)	226.6	231.3
Swedish crown	52.5	53
Swiss franc	219.7	222.3
U.K. sterling pound	543.7	550.3
U.S. dollar	346.5	349.6
W. German mark	182.6	184.9

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be normal summer, with westerly light to moderate winds. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

	Min./Max. temp.
Amman	19/33
Agaba	25/40
Deserts	21/39
Jordan Valley	25/38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 21, Agaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Agaba 21 per cent.

Prime minister to open seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day seminar on the role of higher administration will open tomorrow at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman under the patronage of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

The seminar will discuss all aspects of higher administration, the introduction of modernisation and reform and future prospects as well as relations between the role of public administration and the implementation of the current five year national development plan.

U.S. congressman ends visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.S. Congressman David McCann Sweeney wound up a one-day visit to Jordan Friday. Congressman Sweeney from Texas met with the Chief of the Armed Forces General Staff Lt.-Gen. Fathi Abu Talah to discuss a number of questions of interest to the armed forces in Jordan and the United States.

The congressman and an accompanying delegation were also briefed on the development of the Jordanian armed forces and their duties. Several senior army officers and the commander of the Royal Jordanian air force were present at the meeting.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan's electric power output increases

AMMAN (Petra) — The Kingdom's total production of electric power, including exported power, reached 2,955 GWH in 1986, up from 2,495 GWH in 1985, an increase of 18.4 per cent in 1986 compared to 10.2 per cent in 1985, according to Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) sources. The sources added that JEA generated 88.4 per cent of the total electric power produced in 1986 with an increase of 24.3 per cent over that of 1985. The JEA sources attributed this increase to the dependence of industrial corporations on electricity generated by the national electric grid.

Phosphate production increases

AMMAN (Petra) — Total production from the Al Hassa and Al Abbad phosphate mines for June reached 599,822 tonnes and the amount reflects an increase of 5.6 per cent ahead of the monthly production plan charted by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC).

Information minister opens book exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib on Thursday inaugurated a book exhibition displaying a wide-range of textbooks which are used at the Arab University of Beirut. The three-day exhibition, held at the university's Alumni club in Amman commemorates the beginning of the university's annual examinations which are being held at the University of Jordan.

Iraqi planes blast Iran battery

(Continued from page 1) an arms embargo against Iran sometime next month.

The officials said that was made almost certain by Iran's reply to the Security Council resolution of July 20 demanding that both sides in the Iran-Iraq war accept a ceasefire or face U.N. sanctions.

Officials who had read the Iranian answer just received at U.N. headquarters said it "heaped scorn" on the Security Council "with hostile and insulting language." "It was tantamount to a rejection," one official said.

day to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Iranians turned down two key elements of the Security Council demand: a general ceasefire with Iraq and withdrawal to pre-war borders. The Iranians said they would agree to end attacks on shipping in the Gulf if Iraq would, but that it would not halt the land war or pull troops back from Iraqi territory it now holds.

Iran's seven-page response included not a single reference to a ceasefire. Under Resolution 398, the Security Council called on both sides to accept a ceasefire, "council members are to act on some form of sanctions."

Next escort convoy gets ready

(Continued from page 1) possibility of who would be held responsible.

Coast guards of the UAE and Oman, supported by a Saudi Arabian minesweeper on Friday continued to scout for mines in the waters outside the Hormuz, sole inlet to the Gulf waterway.

The U.S. navy was reportedly checking further out in the Arabian Sea. The Iranians, accused by the United States of responsibility for this week's sudden incidence of mines in the area, were poised for mine-sweeping "man-

oeuvres" in unspecified parts of the international waters.

The U.S. defence department said Thursday Iran almost certainly planted the mines.

Regional military sources said the mines, a 1908 Russian model upgraded in 1938, sold to North Korea several decades ago then resold to Iran, were newly laid because no marine life had gathered on their surface. "You can tell (they were just laid) because they are all shiny," one said.

Labour ministry issues warning

Firms found violating rules to face penalties

AMMAN (J.T.) — Labour Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan warned Thursday that employers of foreign workers found violating labour regulations more than once will be prohibited from employing non-Jordanians in their businesses under any circumstances.

The minister issued the warning at a meeting with heads of employment offices around the Kingdom, during which he said that search campaigns will continue to ensure that all employers abide by ministry regulations concerning the employment of foreign workers in Jordan.

The minister said employment offices are empowered to carry out decisions concerning the eviction of foreign workers from Jordan if they are found violating the country's labour law. Employers can be fined and referred to court if they employ non-Jordanians without work permits, the minister said.

Late last month, the Ministry of Labour decided to expand the

list of jobs which non-Jordanians cannot hold in this country. Non-Jordanians will no longer be allowed to work as salesmen and saleswomen in stores, petrol stations, or as car wash attendants. The ministry's list also includes other categories taboo for non-Jordanians like teaching, secretarial work, accountancy and clerical jobs.

According to the ministry's Director of Employment Offices Mansour Al Utum, 100,000 non-Jordanians worked in the Kingdom as of March 1987, of whom 21,000 were non-Arabs.

Mr. Haj Hassan told the third Jordanian Expatriates Conference last month that nearly eight

per cent of the Jordanian work force has registered as unemployed and the number was expected to reach 9.1 per cent by 1990.

This means that nearly 40,000 Jordanians, mostly university and community college graduates, are jobless.

At the meeting with the minister, it was also announced that the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) will immediately embark on holding training courses for unemployed Jordanians, especially those who graduated from secondary schools and community colleges prior to finding jobs in the construction business.

It was also agreed that the Amman Chamber of Commerce and the Jordanian Contractors Association will coordinate matters with employers and companies to employ Jordanian youths on a gradual basis to serve as substitute for non-Jordanian workers.



Labour Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan (centre) meets with Ministry of Labour officials (Petra photo)

Election to fill vacant Badia seat

MAFRAQ (J.T.) — The by-election in the northern Badia region today will choose a new member of the Lower House of Parliament to fill the seat which fell vacant with the death last month of Sheikh Saoud Al Qadi.

On the eve of the elections, Interior Minister Rajai Dajani and Public Security Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali paid a visit to the Badia region in the Mafraq Governorate to inspect preparations for Saturday's election.

During the visit, they met with

Governor Fayez Abbadi and a number of senior local officials who briefed them on the arrangements made for the election.

Mr. Abbadi said that 27 centres have been opened for voters to cast ballots and that 14 committees have been set up to count the votes.

The minister voiced his satisfaction with the arrangements which he said would contribute to the success of the voting process. Mr. Abbadi said that 15,813 voters are eligible to cast ballots

and that voting will begin at 7 a.m. and last for 12 hours.

Five candidates are now running for the election after three notables withdrew from the race for unknown reasons.

Sheikh Saoud Al Qadi, who was 76 when he died, had served as member of Jordan's Parliament since 1954.

The candidates running for today's election are Nawaf Saoud Al Qadi, Mubdi Sumeiran, Mohammad Al Muarar, Hassan Al Qawameh, and Sitan Al Madi.

Saudi envoy says Iran is lying

(Continued from page 1) Friday, bringing the number of repatriated bodies to about 230, the radio said.

The Kuwait News Agency reported Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah said the Aug. 1 attack on the Kuwaiti embassy in Tehran and acts of sabotage there occurred under the "blessing and abetment" of Iranian authorities.

Sheikh Sabah's protest was contained in a letter delivered on Wednesday to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Iranian mobs shouting "revenge" ransacked the Kuwaiti embassy on Aug. 1 during protests over the Mecca deaths.

In his letter, Sheikh Sabah said

two Kuwaiti diplomats were arrested, the Kuwaiti flag was burned and replaced by an Iranian flag and the ambassador's car was looted.

Kuwait still has not regained control of the embassy, which is in the hands of people who say they are members of Hizbollah — the name of an Iranian-backed Lebanese faction.

The Kuwaiti letter said that Iranian authorities had not responded to demands for an explanation of the incidents.

"Kuwait registers its strong rejection of those practices, condemns them... and reiterates the protests it previously expressed to Iran," the letter said.

King expresses appreciation for public's wedding enthusiasm

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has expressed his deep appreciation to the Jordanian people for their exuberant enthusiasm over the wedding of his second son Prince Faisal to Princess Alia Monday.

In a message to the nation, His Majesty said he was overwhelmed by the people's manifestation of warm feelings and elation which he said, added to his own joy and that of the Royal Family's. "I thank you all for sharing with me my happiness at the wedding of my son Prince Faisal who is your brother and member of the Jordanian family," King Hussein said.

The cheering of crowds, the cables of congratulations sent to the Royal Court and the happiness displayed by the public on this occasion reflected genuine feelings of affection coming from members of a united Jordanian family, His Majesty said.

The King expressed special gratitude and appreciation for the people of the occupied Arab territories who, he said, shared with his brothers in the East Bank their exultation over the delightful occasion. "The joys and the aspirations of the members of the



Jordanian family are one for which I have devoted my whole life and dedicated all my efforts," the King said in his message read over radio and television.

He said that Prince Faisal, like the rest of the members of the Royal Family, will remain dedicated for serving the Jordanian people and the Arab nation.

Zarqa ends projects worth JD 17 million

ZARQA (Petra) — The Zarqa Governorate has completed a number of developmental and service-oriented projects at the cost of JD 1,170,000.

These projects, according to the Director of the Zarqa Municipal Committee Badri Baha'eddine, included purchasing mechanical equipment, erecting bridges, inaugurating public gardens, and asphalted a number of roads.

Mr. Baha'eddine also called on citizens to settle their financial obligations toward the municipality to allow for the completion of all projects included in the governorate's development plan for 1987-88.

The governorate's projects for the current year — totalling almost JD 2.5 million — include opening streets, establishing a sports complex, a cultural centre, public gardens, a car park lot and a laboratory for food testing.

Jordanian cement shipment leaves Aqaba for Sudan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first shipment of Jordanian cement for Sudan left Aqaba port on Thursday aboard a cargo vessel.

A spokesman for the port authorities said the 2,800-tonne shipment is part of a Jordanian-Sudanese trade agreement signed in March.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two countries will exchange goods worth \$20 million.

Jordan pledged to purchase Sudanese sesame, raw leather, white corn, mango juice concentrate, cotton and spices. Sudan pledged to buy construction materials, including cement, as well as clothes, pharmaceutical products, electrical appliances and household equipment.

JEA to offer training

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has announced that it will open its doors for school graduates to obtain training at its vocational training centres. The two-year training period will be for those who passed tawjihi examinations in the scientific and industrial fields and will take place at the King Hussein Thermal Power station in Zarqa.

The trainees will study the generation and distribution of electric power and will receive pocket money during their training period, according to a JEA spokesman.

The spokesman said the training is required to recruit skilled people for the JEA's present and future projects.

The first group to receive training will number 200 and will later be given jobs at the JEA, as well as the Amman and Irbid Districts Electricity Companies.

The JEA has established the centre in cooperation with the Japanese government which will offer equipment and training facilities.

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History, the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and the Friends of Archaeology announce the death of

Mrs. Crystal M. Bennett O.B.E., D. Litt., F.S.A.

She was director of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem from 1970-1978 and founding director of the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History from 1978-1983 and contributed substantially to our knowledge of the antiquities and history of Jordan. She died peacefully at her home in England on August 12th. Any letters of condolence may be sent to her son Simon Bennett at Tolbury House, Bruton, Somerset, England.



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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established: 1972

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: U.S.-Israeli game

UNITED STATES envoy Charles Hill has ended his visit to occupied Palestine winding up his talks with Israeli leaders with statements indicating that the U.S.-Israeli position vis-a-vis the idea of an international conference remains the same. One wonders why should the U.S. administration remain at the outset of Hill's visit that it was an attempt to persuade the Israelis to accept the idea of the conference while in reality Washington itself rejects this very idea. The U.S. has not even exerted any pressure on Israel to make it accept the idea of the conference, and has not even tried to do that. Had Washington declared that it supports and respects the will of the international community, and that it would help in implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions, we would have believed that it was really trying to achieve a just peace. It is clear that the United States does not want to show its support for the international conference idea before securing the approval of the Israeli government. U.S. tactics and Israel's negative position clearly form the major obstacle in the path of the proposed conference. Washington could easily remove the obstacle by declaring its respect of the international community's will which calls for an Israeli withdrawal from Arab land and recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people.

Al Dustour: Israel showing its colours

A NUMBER of foreign nationals were injured when Israeli police opened fire on demonstrators protesting Israel's arbitrary measures in the occupied Arab territory. The injured foreigners were among those protesting these measures and were treated exactly the same as the Arab protesters and attacked with brutality during their peaceful demonstration. The indiscriminate Israeli attack came as a surprise to the foreigners, but not to the Arab inhabitants who have had long experience of Israel's atrocities. The attack was another proof for the whole world of Israel's inhuman nature and its tendency to resort to terrorism and violence against defenceless people. The United States was earlier reported to have warned Israel to stop its racial discriminatory practices against Arab-Americans arriving in the occupied Palestinian land, and now we wonder what would be the American and European reaction to yesterday's attack. We also wonder whether Israel would have committed such actions and resorted to brutal treatment of Arabs and non-Arabs had it not been assured that any reaction would not exceed the issuing of denunciations. Israel is quite sure that whatever happened it will continue to receive unlimited support and help and backing for its inhuman and barbaric policies. The innocent foreign nationals who fell victim to Israel's inhuman and barbaric and arrogant character will not be stifled but they will strengthen their solidarity with the Arabs, and increase their support for their just cause.

Sawt Al Shaab: Moves towards joint action

JORDANIAN-Iraqi consultations have a special and very close nature, being based on a total and unlimited national commitment, serving as an ideal example of a true relationship between two sister states. Talks held in Amman yesterday between King Hussein and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz clearly reflect the distinguished Jordanian role on the pan-Arab scene and its serious endeavours to arrive at joint Arab action in the face of common threats and challenges. The Arab Nation has been suffering from divisions, and disarray in its ranks and it now finds itself at a crossroads and confronting common enemies trying to exploit its weakness to serve their own selfish interests. Therefore, Arab meetings and consultations like these that were held in Amman over the past week were useful because they help to formulate a pan-Arab strategy and unify Arab countries' stand at the coming Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis. We seek to bring about a consensus within the Arab community, and a unity of ranks that can help us confront any eventualities on the regional and international levels, and also deal with constant Iranian and Israeli threats to our nation.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: No cause for optimism

ISRAEL has just announced that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will pay a visit to the Middle East region in the coming weeks. The announcement was made in the wake of talks held with Israeli leaders by Shultz's envoy Charles Hill. Upon concluding his talks, which achieved nothing, Hill claimed that they were serious. It means that the next step in which Shultz will be involved is bound to display a high-level American activity on the diplomatic scene. But apparently, the United States is aiming to achieve its own objectives by sending Shultz to this area. Washington aims at arriving at American-Israeli coordination with regard to the idea of an international peace conference with a view to saving both sides an embarrassment before America's European allies and the rest of the world. It should be noted that the U.S.-Israeli strategy could not mean opening the way for the proposed conference but rather to show the world that the United States has been concerned about the subject of peace and that Israel, by accepting the idea of the conference, has offered a compromise. This compromise and concession should then require concessions on the part of the Arab side, something which will be detrimental to the Arab cause. For this reason Shultz's coming visit to this region should be viewed carefully as it will not present a cause for Arab optimism.

Al Dustour: Amman is a pan-Arab link

THE current flurry of diplomatic activity in Amman in preparation for the coming Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Tunis reflects a consensus among Arab countries on the need to coordinate Arab views and reach successful results. Amman, which is being visited by Arab envoys for consultations and coordination, has been striving to arrive at pan-Arab consensus and has been serving as a link between various Arab parties following the serious events in the Arab region. The Arab leaders are now committing themselves to achieving successful results from the coming meeting in view of the serious dimension of the events in their area. No-one can delay any longer pan-Arab action in the face of the challenges and the common threats. It was therefore natural for Amman to be a meeting point for different Arab envoys seeking coordination of Arab views and stands, and striving to arrive at joint steps to be taken in the face of the current situation. The convergence of Arab envoys on Amman reflects the Arab countries' appreciation of Jordan's pan-Arab policies which aim at unifying Arab ranks and seek to re-establish solidarity among Arab countries. Perhaps unity of ranks and joint action represent the most powerful weapons which the Arabs had abandoned in the past resulting in the Arab Nation's weakness and disarray.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

Higher education — why a life-long punishment?

By Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber

IT IS out of respect and concern for our educational institutions, that myself, one of their products, venture an opinion concerning the latest decision of the Council of Higher Education. The ruling of the council states that higher degrees obtained from universities outside Jordan can be recognised by the Equivalence Department of the Ministry of Higher Education only if the recipient of these degrees have previously obtained tawjihi grades meeting the council's requirements. These requirements are that a minimum tawjihi grade of 85 per cent is necessary to study medicine; 80 per cent for engineering; and 65 per cent to study other subjects in Jordan and elsewhere.

Rightly, the decision has caused some debate, especially since over one-third of the population of Jordan is currently enrolled in schools of one level or another. The decision affects almost every family in Jordan and is bound to cause concern. Other factors also enter into the picture, not the least of them being the fact that education in general, higher education included, has become not only a constitutional right, to be protected and advanced by the state, but a human right as well. The fact that Jordan has become an outstanding example of a small, developing nation that has succeeded in establishing an admirable and successful educational system on the primary, preparatory and high school levels as well as on the university level, is another factor. We take pride in the fact that in spite of formidable odds, we export talent: our educational system has never been strictly confined to the needs of our country alone, and our skilled manpower has helped in the building not only of Jordan but of the countries of the Gulf region, Saudi Arabia and

other Arab countries as well. Many of our Jordanian expatriates hold some of the highest teaching, managerial, and technical posts even in the most advanced countries of the world. We also pride ourselves in our statements and speeches, and so far rightly, that the human being is our most precious resource.

Because of the emphasis on "excellence" in our acceptance procedures to our universities in Jordan which control and limit their annual intake, a very large number of students manage elsewhere. Some of those who do not make the grade may be of limited ability, some were perhaps physically ill or emotionally upset on the day of examinations and some others might have very economically depressed backgrounds, as while others may simply be "late bloomers," persons whose capacity for studying and making good grades does not manifest itself until late, sometimes very late in life. It would seem that persons who, for whatever reason — circumstantial, emotional, physical, social or economic — do not attain the right grade in the tawjihi exams are being punished for that one failure for their entire life. Granted the number of these may be limited, nevertheless. They should be given a chance. In our culture there have been many instances of "late bloomers" some of whom have even been given the honorific title of Al Nabighah, the genius, since their talent blossomed late in life. Among these is the great Arab poet, Al Nabighah Al Dhubyani. Those who could not be accepted in our universities and whose determination and ingenuity have been proven by the fact that they succeeded in being educated outside, and may even have excelled, should be a source of pride not a cause for punishment.

The tawjihi exam is not in question especially since its validity has been proven over and over again; there being a definite correlation between examination results and academic achievement later on. It is also true that the number who achieve below the 65 per cent cut-off is rather small, but even those deserve a second chance, especially since they are the ones who are giving themselves that chance through their motivation and determination in studying abroad. Some of them might be below average, some above and some just average and their only hope after failing to be accepted into any of our institutions of higher learning is to study abroad anyway; and if accepted, they will most likely have to take additional courses to meet the requirements of other universities. Many universities in some of the most advanced countries make it their policy to accept a quota of determined students whose academic achievement has been below standard.

The Higher Education Council is wise in setting standards and in enforcing them. Our educational system should always strive to achieve the best and to maintain it, particularly in view of our excellent reputation abroad. While this is being accomplished little harm can come from extending and maintaining hope for those who do not achieve the minimum grade and their families as well. While I have faith in our educational system, as an educator and a concerned parent, I also have some doubts lingering in the back of my mind. Perhaps we should search for alternative methods of regulating the flow of students into academic and non academic fields. Aside from the question of individual choice these students bring back with them new approaches, languages, and ideas.

Iran-contra hearings — pussy-footing over Israel

By Jane Hunter

THERE was a plan for the same "enterprise" that facilitated U.S.-Israeli arms sales to Iran and the arming of the contras fighting against Nicaragua to conduct future secret operations, and at least some of these were to be in conjunction with Israel. The startling disclosure of a permanent secret foreign policy apparatus, funded like the Iran-contra operation by arms sales and contributions from "friendly" governments, was made by Oliver North during his testimony last month before the joint congressional committee investigating the Iran-contra affair. To the obvious discomfort of the committee, which has gone out of its way to ignore Israel's role in the affair, North also asserted that Iranian go-between Manucher Ghorbanifar was an Israeli agent.

North coordinated both legs of the Iran-contra scheme from his former post in the White House National Security Council. The committee members were visibly stunned when North told them

how his mentor, the late CIA director William Casey, had suggested using the Iran-contra "enterprise" run by retired Air Force General Richard Secord and his Iranian-American partner, Albert Hakim, as a "stand-alone, off-shore commercial venture" for additional covert operations. By design, this "off-the-shelf" entity, as North termed it, would function outside all government scrutiny or control.

Israel's role in the undertakings of this private CIA came up when North was asked whether the entity was intended to outlive the Reagan administration. He answered: "It was. Again, I can't say for sure, when we started talking to the Israelis about the kinds of activities I described to you last night, what the time frame would have been." (The previous night North, at his own request, had been questioned about these "sensitive" matters in a closed session.) The congressmen asked that question veered off quickly into safer territory: what if some future Ollie decided to support the Sandinistas?

But the subject popped up again. Appearing the following week, North's former boss, Rear Admiral John Poindexter, testified about a September 1986 memorandum containing details of additional U.S. Israeli covert activities. Poindexter, then the president's national security adviser, had used the memo to prepare President Reagan for a meeting with the Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres. This memorandum made headlines, when, before Poindexter's appearance, Senator Daniel Inouye, chairman of the Senate committee, charged on a network television programme that it made reference to the diversion of funds from the Iranian arms sales to the contras. Inouye asserted that the document constituted evidence that President Reagan had been told about that key element of the affair.

Whether or not the president, knew that profits made on the arms sales had been funnelled to the contras has been a major preoccupation of the Democratic members of the committee. When it was explained by the White House and Republican panelists that the memorandum did not address that particular issue — only the diversion of funds to "other" U.S.-Israeli covert operations — the committee quickly lost interest.

Only days before, the committee members had managed to sidestep Israel's role in the affair. North unexpectedly blurted out that Casey had told him that Manucher Ghorbanifar, the Iranian go-between in the arms dealings with the Islamic republic, was actually an Israeli intelligence agent. After having been informed of Ghorbanifar's status, North told the committee, when the Iranian offered to transfer to the contras some of the vast profits made on arms sales to Iran, he assumed the offer was made "with the full knowledge, acquiescence and support, if not the original idea, of the Israeli intelligence services, if not the Israeli government." North said an earlier proposal along the same lines by Amir Nir, the adviser to Prime Minister Peres who worked with the administration on the Iranian arms deal, had reinforced that perception.

There has been conflicting testimony over the origin of the contra diversion. North at one time said the idea had come from David Kimche, the Israeli foreign ministry official. Ghorbanifar

says Albert Hakim came up with the proposal, but this charge could be motivated by his anger at Hakim, who testified in May that when he knew Ghorbanifar in Iran in the 1970s, the man had been working for both Israeli and Iranian intelligence. Being publicly connected with Israel would damage Ghorbanifar's ability to operate in the Ayatollah's Iran. In January, the Times of London said the diversion came from Prime Minister Peres. Moreover, because of the extensive support it has given the contras since 1983, because of the well-documented history of the Reagan administration's efforts to get Israel to take over the contras, and because some of the diverted funds came its way in the form of arms sales to the contras, Israel is the most plausible intellectual author of the diversion.

This apparently disturbed one of the Democratic panelists, Senator George Mitchell, who sought to pin the whole scheme on arms dealer Richard Secord. Mitchell took the opportunity of the appearance before the committee of Attorney General Edwin Meese to point out that in November, when the scandal was about to break, North had told Meese that Nir suggested the diversion and had only brought up Ghorbanifar during his testimony in July. Mitchell asserted that this inconsistency, together with North's earlier fib, that the Swiss bank accounts in which the money was deposited were under the control of the contras when they were actually controlled by Secord and Hakim, proved that "Secord had control over the funds." After so many months, who remembers the Israeli admission last winter that Israel "only" gave the Iranian arms purchasers the Swiss account numbers and told them how much to deposit?

Credulity having its limits, there has not been a similar effort to dispute the matter of Ghorbanifar's allegiance to Israel, nor to probe too deeply into its implications. The Tower Commission, an investigatory panel appointed by the president last winter, had hinted that Ghorbanifar, who had been presented to the Reagan administration by Israeli officials as a well-connected Iranian in touch with "pro-Western elements" in Tehran, was an Israeli agent. The commission's report noted that Israel had vigorously lobbied the administration to continue selling arms to Iran and to continue using Ghorbanifar as

an intermediary, even after promises that hostages would be freed were repeatedly broken. It was Ghorbanifar, of course, who conveyed those promises. During meetings between the Americans and the Iranians the wily interloper is said to have misinterpreted the statements of both sides.

The Tower Commission blamed the administration for failing to heed CIA reports that Ghorbanifar was a chronic liar and for exercising bad judgment in succumbing to Israel's blandishments. North's almost nonchalant assertion that he and the director of the CIA were aware at the time that Israel was playing a double game obviates that excuse. In fact, it gives credence to the theory that Oliver North, John Poindexter, and Robert McFarlane, Poindexter's predecessor who initially obtained presidential approval for the arms sales to Iran, had a very special devotion to Israel. Michael Ledeen, the "terrorism" consultant who initially acted as liaison between Prime Minister Peres and McFarlane, had long been regarded as exceptionally loyal to Israel. (Ledeen was also one of Ghorbanifar's most enthusiastic proponents.) This theory was further bolstered when John Poindexter told the congressional committee that in 1985 the National Security Council staff and CIA director Casey had begun to regard Iran as the imperiled side in the Iran-Iraq war. "I thought our view was that Iraq's position was deteriorating," said his startled interrogator. Poindexter reiterated that the NSC supported the Israeli position in favour of Iran.

Similarly, Congress has not publicly come to grips with the U.S.-Israeli covert activities. Oliver North outlined behind closed doors; the possibilities of what these activities might be are legion. There is evidence that North and company were involved in southern Africa. Earlier this year syndicated columnist Jack Anderson reported that Amir Nir had wanted to use some of the profits from the Iran arms sales to fund joint U.S.-Israeli activities in Europe. That Congress has made no move to reassure the public that the North-Secord-Hakim apparatus has been dismantled hints ominously of deep and continuing Israeli involvement in the Cabal. Yet while it is sparing Israel Congress is establishing a formidable rival to its own foreign

policymaking power — one that does not hesitate to conspire against it or play it for a fool. This is precisely the "stand-alone" entity the late William Casey meant to bequeath.

The identification of Ghorbanifar as an Israeli agent presents a fresh challenge to the Israeli position — unchanged since the scandal broke — that Israel's role in the Iranian end of the affair was simply to respond to a U.S. request for help in contacting Iranian "moderates." Instead, it appears that Israel went beyond advocacy and manipulated the administration by chicanery and deceit. And it did so only weeks after the arrest of Jonathan Jay Pollard on charges of spying for Israel. Nonetheless, it is a foregone conclusion that Israel will emerge unscathed from the affair. It is never easy for Congress to confront Israel, given the powerful lobby that protects it. In this instance, Israel also has the total sympathy of the committee's senior chairman, Senator Daniel Inouye. On a visit to Israel shortly before he was appointed to head the Senate panel, Inouye expressed understanding of Israel's involvement in the Iranian "initiative" and said he did not believe Israel was responsible for the contra diversion.

Israel is also blessed in that the committee's priorities are dominated by domestic concerns. Given the approaching presidential election, it is not remarkable that the congressional committees, controlled by the Democrats because of their majority in both houses of the legislature, would be gunning for the president, to the exclusion of all other targets. Another major concern — shared by members of both parties — is that the Iran-contra operators bypassed Congress, subverting the constitutional system of checks and balances and usurping cherished institutional prerogatives. What is remarkable, however, is that Congress is willing to tolerate an even greater institutional insult from Israel. Reluctant even to embarrass Israel, Congress has opted to ignore its ability to effect a 180-degree turn in U.S. policy in the critical region of the Gulf. In refusing to consider Israel's part in the contra diversion, Congress has reaffirmed its practice of the past decade: pretending not to notice Israel's propensity for taking over discarded U.S. policies in Central America — Middle East International, London.

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Solar-powered vehicles are still in the shade

By Wolfgang Kessler

MANY motorists and fans of high-powered Formula 1 racing turn up their noses at solar-powered cars. They see solar panels, collectors and batteries as little more than a hobby for cranks and crackpots. And they're right — up to a point.

When solarmobiles are exhibited at car shows or the annual Tour de Sol race is held, the cars look more like Heath Robinson contraptions than the shape of transport to come.

Many are not readily identifiable as motor vehicles. They look more like a combination of push-bike, rickshaw, tri-cycle and soapbox.

Yet solar motorists go in for more than a mere hobby. Solar power plays an increasing part in the debate on future modes of transport. Many experts see solar-powered battery-run vehicles as ideally suited for local traffic.

They are inexpensive to run, waste no fuel and do little or no damage by way of pollution.

It may be years before dreams come true and they are a practical proposition, but developments are making headway by leaps and bounds.

"We can already work on the assumption that solar cars will be used in everyday life," says an optimistic Urs Muntwyler. He should know. As manager of the Tour de Sol he has followed their progress for years.

His optimism is based on the advantages solar cars have over conventional vehicles. They emit no exhaust and are virtually noiseless. Their electric motors also use energy more efficiently than conventional combustion engines.

The ordinary car engine wastes about 80 per cent of the energy in motor fuel as process heat. Good electric motors convert roughly 80 per cent of their energy into motion.

Many problems remain to be solved before the solar car runs off the assembly line. Energy supplies are one drawback. Roof-top solar panels are not really much use — even though they are obligatory for vehicles that take part in the Tour de Sol.

"Even if the sun were to shine throughout the race," Muntwyler says, "the solar cells on the car roof would not generate more than about 10 per cent of the energy needed to power the car."

The remainder comes from a built-in battery that is recharged as the car stands in the sun. Cars have to be stationary and recharging for about 10 hours to



The shape of things to come? or something else?

store enough power to travel about 100 kilometres.

In ordinary traffic that wouldn't do. Cars are usually parked either in the shade or in underground garages. So many fans are busy planning solar filling stations of their own.

They fix their solar panels somewhere near home where they can bask in the sunlight to recharge the batteries.

Batteries remain the toughest technical problem facing designers and manufacturers. It is a vicious circle, with lightweight batteries not powerful enough and powerful batteries too heavy.

A fully-charged lightweight battery will only take the car 50 kilometres or so, but more powerful batteries are heavier, taking more energy to move.

Heavyweights are neither faster nor can they cover greater distances. The sodium sulphur battery devised mainly by Brown, Boveri & Cie, the engineering company, may be the breakthrough.

This battery, when fully laden, can cover 25 kilometres, accelerate to 50 kilometres from a standing start in seven seconds and reach a top speed of 130 kilometres per hour.

These are performance statistics that compare well with those of conventional compacts, but

even though the new battery is much more powerful — and cheaper to mass produce — it still weighs about 265 kilos.

Against this practical background the ideal requirements envisaged by Zurich solarmobile expert Ruedi Kriesi amount to squaring the circle.

"As battery expenditure weighs heavily on running costs yet the widest feasible radius is essential, the vehicle must be light in weight and aerodynamic in design so as to run on as little power as possible."

Unlike many other experts who have high hopes of battery-powered conventional cars, he is convinced from the outset that the vehicle of the future for short distances will be midway between a bicycle and a motor-car.

Most headway in this direction has been made by a group sponsored by Migros, the Swiss consumer retailers, and Autopbon, the telecom company.

Their prototype is extremely light in weight, seats two, has a range of 150 kilometres and reaches a top speed of 130 kilometres per hour.

Its energy consumption per 100 kilometres corresponds to 0.3 litres of conventional motor fuel.

Providing a more powerful, lightweight battery is available at

a reasonable price, the Swiss solarmobile could sell for between DM8,000 and DM10,000.

The Swiss prototype meets virtually all the requirements specified by Berlin Technical University engineer Andreas Muller as essential if solarmobiles are to stand any chance of becoming a serious mode of transport in Germany.

"If a solarmobile can be built to sell at less than DM10,000, to seat two people, plus 50 kilograms of luggage, and to comply with road traffic regulations, there could be a market for several million vehicles."

It will be some years before this is likely to happen. Manufacturers are still reluctant to invest. Carmakers are waiting for the batteries. Battery manufacturers are waiting for carmakers to give them the go-ahead.

Both can only earn profits from mass production. Jumping the gun could cost millions. That is why Muntwyler is banking on publicity — car shows, races and the like.

Competition encourages inventors to design increasingly powerful models; they alone can hope to make solar power competitive as a means of propulsion — Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt.

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. Aug. 15, 1987

8:30 Together We Stand

9:00 Variety Show

10:20 Feature Film

Paerry Mason's Return

The wife saw a woman quickly leaving her millionaire husband's office. She rushed into the office to find that her husband had been killed. When the will was read, Paerry Mason became suspicious and started investigations into the matter.

Sun. — Aug. 16, 1987

8:30 Growing Pains

When Mike professes a lack of interest in attending college, Jason takes him along on a trip to visit his alma mater to change his mind.

9:10 Intimate Contact

Episode Three

In spite of his deteriorating condition, AIDS sufferer, Clive Gregory finds that he can still help another victim. He also gains a new respect for his wife, Ruth, as she grows more self-assured and begins a campaign to overcome public ignorance of AIDS.

10:20 Hunter

Think Blue

11:10 Are You Being Served

Mon. — Aug. 17, 1987

8:30 Throb

9:10 Mussolini

10:20 Bird of Prey

New Drama Series

Ron Hutchinson's contemporary thriller revolves round one man's efforts to expose an internationally-based financial conspiracy to subvert a commercial/industrial venture of national importance.

Henry Jay is principal scientific officer at a government trade ministry in London's Whitehall. A loyal, hard-working and meticulous civil servant with an expert knowledge of computers, he leads a quiet home life with his wife Anne. But the predictable equanimity of their daily lives is suddenly shattered when Henry unwittingly stumbles on information concerning a massive bank fraud and major cover-up involv-

ing his own department. Reference to the fraud in his latest report — a study of computer fraud in the age of electronic accounting — marks the beginning of a lonely and frightening quest requiring all the resources Henry can muster.

11:10 Love Boat

Tue. — Aug. 18, 1987

8:30 Double Trouble

The Twins Take on the Big Apple

Straight from graduating high school in Iowa, twins Kate and Allison Foster take on the challenges and surprises of New York City as they move in with their aunt to pursue careers in dance and fashion design, respectively.

At Aunt Margo's they meet two strange, but funny boarders and at fashion school, Allison faces a tyrant of a teacher, but being overwhelmed by the people and the place doesn't lessen the twins' determination to survive big city life and attain their career goals.

9:10 Ohara

Log Line — Ohara

"Laura"... innocent by insanity... or a clever ruse? Lt. Ohara (Pat Morita) must discern the truth locked within a beautiful, but disturbed, woman accused of a vicious murder.

10:20 The Unknown War

11:10 Open All Hours

Wed. — Aug. 19, 1987

8:30 Don't Wait Up

Tom, recently divorced, and his father Toby, both enjoy successful careers as doctors, but each experiences difficulty in managing his private life — especially when Toby decides to leave Tom's mother and move in with his son.

9:10 The Silk Road

(Documentary)

A Heatwave called Turfan

The oasis cities of Hami and Turfan are located on an extension of the Hexi Corridor at the northern foot of the Tian Shan Mountains. They were the sites of many battles during the Hun invasions. The deciphering of the ancient private documents unearthed in large quantities from the Mound,



Inside Story — Friday at 10:20

have revealed some extremely interesting aspects of life in those days, when people of many different races lived together.

10:20 New bestseller

"The Rhinemann Exchange"

Stephen Collins and Lauren Hutton head an all-star cast in the television adaptation of "The Rhinemann Exchange." Robert Ludlum's gripping novel of wartime espionage and double-dealing which will be a five-hour presentation from MCA TV.

Collins portrays David Spaulding, a U.S. intelligence agent who is sent to Argentina where he is to make contact with German agents, and Hutton plays Leslie Jenner Hawkewood, a widowed, childhood friend with whom he is having an affair.

Thu. — Aug. 20, 1987

8:30 My Husband and I

Nora Powers (Mollie Sugden) is supposed to be head of personnel at Ashvale Advertising. But she's the last person to know about an important change in the company's corridor of power. And she heard it from the tea lady.

9:10 Rags to Riches

10:20 Feature Film

Tribute

Starring:

Jack Lemmon,

Lee Remick

and Robby Benson

A Broadway press agent comes to

know his son by his divorced wife just as he comes to know of his own fatal illness.

Fri. — Aug. 21, 1987

8:30 Bill Cosby Show

9:10 Falcon Crest

10:20 Inside Story

A six-part mini-series

Starring:

Roy Marsden

and Francesca Annis

Set in the fast-moving world of journalism, Roy Marsden plays millionaire tycoon Bennet, whose determined ambition to take over the "Sunday Register" newspaper runs into fierce opposition. Inside Story also stars Francesca Annis as the idealistic foreign correspondent, whose support Bennet cleverly enlists.

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Amer breaks 1966 hill-climbing record to dominate Tal-Al Rumman Race

King's participation adds charm to test of driving skills

By Nermeen Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Amer Bilbeisi clocked 2:16:87 to win Friday's Tal-Al Rumman hill-climbing race in his Opel Manta 400, breaking a record set twenty years ago by His Majesty King Hussein in a Porsche 904.

With less than a second difference, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, also driving an Opel Manta 400, took the second and the third place in a BMW M3 clocking 2:19:35. The King covered the same distance in 2:21:09 in 1966.

Taking part informally in Friday's race, the King, driving a Lotus Esprit Turbo and a Saab 900 Turbo, both factory cars,

failed to repeat his performance. He was placed 12th among 76 entries with a time of 2:28:86 in his Lotus.

Participating as a guest of honour, Qatari rally champion Said Al Hajri dropped from the race when his specially-equipped BMW M3 crashed out of control half way through the race, which was sponsored by Pepsi-Cola.

Haitham Mufti, driving a Daihatsu Charant rally car, was placed fourth, seven seconds behind Bilbeisi while Issa Halabi in a Nissan 240 RS came fifth, eight seconds behind the winner.

Bilbeisi, 26, a civil engineer, participated in several national rallies and speed tests since 1984. Bilbeisi and Prince Abdullah formed the Royal Jordanian-Silk Car team.

The race route covers 400 metres from start to finish with 27 sharp turns, with the longest stretch not exceeding 250 metres. Several cars went off the road in the course including the BMWs driven by Prince Abdullah and Hajri. The extent of damage done to Hajri's car was not immediately known but officials

said the Qatari champion was not hurt.

Amman Marriott's general manager Haile Aguilar was placed sixth in a Nissan 240 RS. George Khayyat, also in a Nissan, was placed seventh followed by Khaled Dallal, Yanal Qumuk, Hanna Zaoaniri and Ma'rouf Abu Samra.

Apart from the King and Prince Abdullah, Jack and George Khayyat, Haile and Gonzalez Aguilar and Hassan and Hamdi Tahba' formed the other father and son teams at the race. No woman driver took part.

The King told reporters that many things had changed in terms of the development of cars since he last participated in the race in 1966. "I am happy to have had the opportunity to join in with this new generation of young Jordanians in the sport," the King said. "I have always encouraged such events. I am happy with the achievements of this rally."

A large number of people, including Her Majesty Queen Noor, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Princess Aisha, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Princess Alia Al Hussein and sport enthusiasts in Jordan watched Friday's event.

The Royal Automobile Club of Jordan organised the event which began at 10 a.m. and ended at 7 p.m. at Tal-Al Rumman, 35 kilometres north of Amman.

\$1 million yachting race announced for next year

NEWPORT, R.I. (R) — A \$1 million four-leg yacht race will begin in the United States next year, promoters have announced.

The annual event, called Pro-sail, will pit four identical new fiberglass 12 metres against one another and offer \$1 million in prize money, Morris International, a North Carolina marketing firm, said at a news conference.

The series is scheduled to open here next June 10. Additional races are scheduled for Chicago in August, San Francisco in October and Honolulu in December.

Negotiations are underway to stage future events in England, Japan and other overseas locations. Prosail director Jack West said.

The boat design comes from the drawing board of Lauri Davidsoo, the New Zealander who helped draft plans for the world's first fiberglass 12-metre, New Zealand's Kiwi Magic.

The boats will use advanced materials not approved for America's Cup and are expected to be faster and lighter, West said. He said the four new 12 metres would be ready to launch early next year.

Organisers said they were hoping to take advantage of the mass popularity that yacht racing has gained as a result of the America's Cup series in Australia last winter.

Gaggioli edges Knickman to win Coors Classic 10th stage

RENO, Nevada (AP) — Italy's Roberto Gaggioli edged American Roy Knickman at the finish line Thursday night to win the injury-marred 10th stage of the Coors International Bicycle Classic, while Jeff Pierce held on to his overall lead.

Veteran rider Doug Shapiro, who races for the 7-eleven team, apparently retracted his left leg just below the hip when he went into the last turn of the first lap too wide and slammed into a guard rail. Shapiro broke the leg last winter.

Dr. Jeff Paulsen, medical director for the Classic, said he expects Shapiro will make a full recovery but said the rider probably won't be able to compete for two months.

Because of the accident, the scheduled 30-mile (48.2-km) criterium, a short, circular course designed for crowd-pleasing views, was shortened by seven miles (11.2 kilometres).

While the Shapiro's injury had a dampening effect on the racers, the race turned out to be one of the closest of Classic so far.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Wharton smashes 400-m medley record

BRISBANE (R) — Dave Wharton of the United States set a world 400-metre individual medley record with a time of four minutes 16.12 seconds at the Pan-Pacific Swimming Championships Friday. Wharton broke Canadian Alex Baumann's world mark of 4:17.41 set in Los Angeles in July 1984.

S. Africa rules out rugby tour by Aussies

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African Rugby Board has said there would be no Australian rugby tour of South Africa this year. The board's statement quashed months of speculation that an Australian rugby team would tour in defiance of a ban on international sporting links with South Africa in protest at its apartheid race policies.

Australian team's Sri Lankan tour unconfirmed

COLOMBO (R) — The Australian cricket team's planned tour of Sri Lanka next month was in the balance Friday because of a curfew and protests against a peace accord which officially ended the Tamil rebellion. A cricket board official told reporters that the board felt it would be unsafe for the Australians to visit the island and the question of calling off the tour would be taken up with the Australian authorities.

Lemond signs with PDM team

SPARKS, Nev. (R) — American cyclist Greg Lemond, last year's Tour de France winner, said Thursday he has agreed to sign a one-year contract with the Dutch-based team PDM. Financial terms were not released.

Andre smashes world shotput record

VIAREGGIO, Italy (R) — Alessandro Andrei of Italy smashed the world shot put record with a 22.91 metre throw at the Viareggio Athletics Meeting. Andrei shattered the previous mark of 22.64 metres set by East German Udo Bayer in East Berlin in August, 1986 with his third throw of the night and then pushed the limit even higher with his fourth and fifth puts.

Jager sets world record in freestyle

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — American Tom Jager Thursday won the men's 50 metre freestyle title at the Pan-Pacific Swimming Championships in a world record time of 22.32 seconds. Jager, 24, trimmed one-hundredth of a second off the previous world mark held by his compatriot and teammate Matt Biondi.

Visa dispute might affect games venue

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — The Western hemisphere's top amateur official has said he might oppose the U.S. hosting the 1994 Winter Olympic because of Washington's denial of a visa to a Chilean seeking to compete in the Pan American Games. Mario Vazquez Rana, the Mexican president of the Pan American Sports Organisation (PASO), conveyed the message on Wednesday to U.S. Undersecretary of State Edward Derwinski.

Lange sets world's best time

EAST BERLIN (R) — Andrea Lange of East Germany has set the world's best time this year in the women's 1,500 metres at an athletics meeting here. Lange clocked four minutes 00.53 seconds, shaving 0.20 seconds off the previous best of 1987 set by Briton Kirsty Wade.

Soviets beat Norway in soccer tie

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet national soccer team defeated a Norwegian squad 1-0 Wednesday night, knocking Norway out of contention for the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea. Soviet attacker Vladimir Lyuty scored the lone goal in the 48th minute.

3 Bulgarians seek to stay in Canada

BURNABY, British Columbia (AP) — Three Bulgarian wrestlers who disappeared from a world tournament during the weekend have asked for permission to remain in Canada. "We've taken their request and forwarded it to Ottawa," Immigration Department Spokesman Jim Pasman said Wednesday night. Pasman said the three were in the Vancouver area and were interviewed by department officials Tuesday night. He said he believes the three will apply for refugee status.

Authorities accused of 'pussyfooting around'

LONDON (R) — English cricket chiefs were accused by a lawyer Thursday of "pussyfooting around." The remark came after former West Indies batsman Alvin Kalicharran had been told he must wait until December to learn if he will be allowed to resume his county career with Warwickshire.

English footballers censured in Scotland

LONDON (R) — England internationals Terry Butcher and Graham Roberts, who play in Scotland, were severely censured by the Scottish Football Association (SFA) Thursday for criticising fellow players and a referee in newspaper articles. The two men both play for Scottish champions Glasgow Rangers. Butcher had criticised Belgian Alex Ponet who refereed his team's UEFA Cup third-round tie in West Germany against Borussia Moenchengladbach last December when two Rangers players were sent off.

Pfaff 'interested' in United

BONN (R) — Belgian World Cup goalkeeper Jean-Marie Pfaff said Thursday was interested in reports that English soccer club Manchester United wants to sign him.

Everton begins league title defence without Sheedy

LONDON (R) — English soccer champions Everton must begin the defence of their league title Saturday without Kevin Sheedy, their top goal-scorer last year and the inspiration behind their success.

Irish international Sheedy has an ankle injury and will join goalkeeper Neville Southall and England fullback Gary Stevens on the sidelines when Everton host Norwich — the team they

beat 1-0 in May to clinch last season's title.

But the good news for new manager Colin Harvey, who took over when Howard Kendall left for Spain's Athletic Bilbao, is that three other key players — Adrian Heath, Ian Snodin and Peter Reid — should be back from injury.

Manchester United Manager Alex Ferguson, who has tipped Everton as title favourites again,

will unveil his two international signings at Southampton.

Ferguson hopes the arrival of Scottish striker Brian McClair and England fullback Viv Anderson — who cost a total 1.1 million sterling (\$1.7 million) — will boost his club's chances of winning the championship for the first time in 21 years.

Danish midfielder Jan Molby will miss Liverpool's opening match at Arsenal because of a broken foot but defender Steve Nicol will be back after a hernia operation.

Liverpool player-manager Kenny Dalglish, with his two new England internationals Peter Beardsley and John Barnes at his disposal, is unlikely to include himself in the team.

Arsenal manager George Graham has ended speculation about the future of Kenny Sansom, which began with the signing of Nigel Winterburn from Wimbledon, by naming the England full-back as captain for the match against Liverpool.

England goalkeeper Peter Shilton has shaken off throat and ear infections and will make his first league appearance for Derby against Luton after moving from Southampton.

Wimbledon's new manager Bobby Gould has selection problems for his side's match at Watford with a rash of injuries and two players — defender Brian Gayle and forward Dennis Wise — suspended.

Cubans charge judges with U.S. 'bias' in Pan Am Games

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Americans ran away from the Cubans in the medals race at the Pan-Am Games. Jackie Joyner-Kersey jumped away with hers.

After four days, only 69 medals separated the United States from Cuba — traditional 1-2 rivals at these games. But the United States was on a roll Thursday, picking up medals from swimming to shooting.

By the end of the night the Americans had 40 more medals, 17 of them gold, while the Cubans added only a handful — five for the day.

The U.S. treasure chest now has 198 medals, 104 more than Cuba's.

The most treasured of the night was won at the Indiana University track where Joyner-Kersey sailed 24 feet, 5 1/2 inches (74.549 metres) through the air and landed with a piece of the world record in the long jump.

Earlier in the day she saw a picture of East German Heike

Drechsler jumping and thought, "that's what I need to do, get in that position."

She did, holding her knees up as long as possible, and now it's Drechsler's record that she shares.

In Gymnastics, a hobbled U.S. team still managed to win gold, but it didn't seem fair to at least one Cuban competitor.

"All the judges were partial for the North American team," Casimiro Suarez said. "I believe we competed a lot better than they did."

It was a good day for Americans even when medals were not at stake.

U.S. boxers Andrew Maynard and Keldie Banks won convincingly over two Argentinians in their opening bouts and meet the Cubans next.

"A lot of people expect the Cubans to dominate," said Banks. "It's going to be a great competition, but I think the U.S. has a good chance, too."

Johansson's clash with deer overshadows Piquet

ZELTWEIG, Austria, (R) — Swede Stefan Johansson crashed into a deer at high speed in the untimed session to overshadow Williams drivers Nelson Piquet and Nigel Mansell in first official practice on Friday for Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix.

Brazilian Piquet not only set a qualifying lap record of one minute 23.357 seconds to claim the provisional pole but also established the Österreichischer as the fastest circuit in current use with his average speed of 256.621 kph. That eclipsed his previous best at Silverstone in July when he lapped at an average rate of 256.315 kph.

Johansson, who hit the animal while accelerating at about 240 kph towards Rindt Curve, was extremely angry afterwards. He said he was lucky not to be killed and severely criticised the circuit's marshals for failing to wave yellow cautionary flags.

The Swedish McLaren driver said: "The deer was around there for about 10 minutes. We could all see it and they should have

done something about it. When I came over the blind I saw it coming at me."

"I swerved to try and miss it, but there was no chance. I am very lucky to be alive. It was one of the worst moments of my life."

The deer was killed instantly. Johansson's car spun away into the trackside barrier and burst into flames which were quickly extinguished by fire marshals.

The car was a total writeoff and Johansson arrived back in the pits — courtesy of a lift from Arrows' British driver Derek Warwick — severely shaken with his helmet and overalls splattered with blood from the animal.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Friday.

One Sterling	1.5760/70	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3285/95	Canadian dollar
	1.8925/35	West German marks
	2.1335/45	Dutch guilders
	1.5740/50	Swiss francs
	39.32/35	Belgian francs
	6.3250/3300	French francs
	1372/1373	Italian lira
	152.10/20	Japanese yen
	6.5775/5825	Swedish crowns
	6.8900/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.3000/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	457.60/458.10	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares turned mixed after a firmer opening, following news that a larger than expected \$15.71 billion U.S. trade gap in June took Wall Street lower, dealers said.

At 1430 GMT Friday the FTSE 100 index stood 4.9 points lower at 2,295 after reaching a high on the day of 2,307.3 at 1145. Earlier, the market had received further reassurance on the U.K. economic outlook when retail prices showed a fall of 0.1 per cent in July, giving a year-on-year inflation rate of 4.4 per cent.

The inflation data was within expectations and was the last of a flurry of U.K. indicators this week which many had believed would bring bad news but in the event held few surprises.

Warburg Securities' U.K. equities director, Mr. Ian Harwood, said "market attention has largely turned to next week's money supply and bank lending figures after a week of as-expected data."

He said that the Bank of England had drawn attention to the level of U.K. consumer credit as one reason behind the recent one point base lending rate rise.

The bank lending data, in particular, will be closely watched.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is an important day to use care and caution where practical and financial matters are concerned. Get organized for future efficiency. Be quite exacting today, as your judgment may be faulty.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Don't make any important decisions today, as your judgment may be faulty. A trusted adviser may be off the mark today.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Attempting to use force to gain your wishes will not work — use tact. Not a day to be sociable or to try anything new.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Solve pressing problems accurately or they'll just pop up again. Don't look for help if this happens, handle it yourself.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Money matters may seem to be the major problem you face, but look beneath the surface and see the truth.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) An important person may be a bit rude to you today, but chalk it up to irritability as a result of fatigue.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Put your future plans in order, but don't set them in motion yet, as you may be interrupted. Use care while in motion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Don't let a new acquaintance waste your time with mindless jabber. Be sure to handle that situation with your mate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be sure you arrange all of the details of a contract carefully before acting. Someone may be trying to fleece you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Taking the time to have a discussion with a fellow worker will help to increase your productivity later.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Let your mate know which friends have been helpful to you and why you appreciate them. This will calm the mood.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get your home in order for entertaining — possibly tomorrow. Rest up tonight and enjoy the domestic scene.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Forget boring chores and concentrate on some new and exciting activities. Show loyalty to a friend who needs support.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be quite alluring, but will find it hard to reach decisions. Teach your child that "the early bird catches the worm," and to stop being so hesitant. Encourage your progeny to keep an open mind and listen to the ideas of others. Sports would be an excellent idea.

Sudan offers 'rewarding' exchange rates to expatriates

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has agreed to offer "rewarding" exchange rates for the remittances of Sudanese working abroad in what appears to be a first step to unifying its multi-tier exchange rate system.

Finance Minister Beshir Omar said the government agreed the move in talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Sudan announced earlier this month it had reached agreement in principle with the IMF on reforming Sudan's debt-laden economy. Details of the accord have not been disclosed.

Western experts say Sudan, declared ineligible by the IMF for fresh loans 18 months ago, owes the IMF about \$600 million in arrears.

It has had an official exchange rate of 2.50 pounds to the dollar since it last devalued its currency in February 1985. It also has a rate of 4.10 pounds for the remittances of the estimated one million Sudanese working abroad.

Higher rates are offered on the flourishing black market which has attracted most of the expatriates' money away from banking channels. The dollar was worth 6.25 pounds Thursday on the black market, traders said.

The Western experts say remittances reaching Sudan through banking channels are worth between \$3 to \$5 million a month compared with \$30 million two years ago.

On the IMF agreement, Mr. Omar said Sudan had persuaded the fund to drop its demand for the removal of subsidies, expected to cost the treasury 375 million pounds (\$150 million) on sugar and flour this fiscal year.

He said Sudan had agreed to IMF demands to cut its 2.85-billion pound (\$1.15 billion) budget deficit, reduce expenditure and the inflation rate and reform state enterprises over a four-year period.

U.S. expects more reliance on foreign oil

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. dependence on foreign oil will continue to increase next year, bringing America's reliance on imports to its highest level since 1980, the U.S. Energy Department has reported.

It estimated in its short-term energy outlook that oil imports in 1988 will increase by six per cent over this year, bringing net imports to six million barrels a day, or 36.5 per cent of U.S. consumption.

The department said the increased U.S. reliance on foreign oil, mainly from Mexico and Canada, is due to a continued drop in domestic production, hit by low world oil prices.

It said the unrest created by the Iran-Iraq war had pushed prices up over the OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) price of \$18 a barrel to as high as \$22 a barrel.

Lebanon gold sale thought unlikely to bolster lira

BEIRUT (R) — The proposed sale of one fifth of Lebanon's gold reserves will have only limited impact in solving a deepening economic crisis, bankers and economists said Thursday.

"This would be a temporary solution. It would be like slapping a bandage on a man already dying," one economist said.

Acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss proposed on Monday selling 20 per cent of Lebanon's 9.2 million ounces of gold reserves to set up a stabilisation fund for the ailing Lebanese pound, which has lost 62 per cent of its international value this year.

Sources close to the Sunni Muslim prime minister, a former banker, said the \$800 million to be raised by the gold sales could bolster the economy for about nine months.

Bankers were more sceptical and said heavy speculation against the pound could drain the fund within two months.

Implementing the plan could be a long and tricky process. The sale would have to be approved by Lebanon's divided parliament and would then need the signature of the Christian president, Mr. Amin Gemayel.

"Gemayel could throw it back to parliament or sign it. If he throws it back, parliament would have to vote again," one banker said.

Christian leaders have said they

were ready to discuss a gold sale provided a new government was formed first.

If agreed, the gold sale would be likely to take time.

"The gold would probably be sold in stages to lessen the impact on the (international) price and ensure support from Arab banks," one banker said.

Arab banks, with wide influence in Lebanon, are deeply involved in gold trading and would be likely to voice opposition to a one-off sale which could depress world prices.

There are also fears among bankers that a sale would not stop with just 20 per cent of Lebanon's gold reserves. One said: "If you start selling gold without political consensus in the country then you'll never stop. It's suicidal."

Central Bank Governor Edmond Naim is also reported to have been seeking foreign loans to prop up Lebanon's economy.

But bankers said a loan was likely to be linked to demands for fiscal reform, such as lifting oil and wheat subsidies.

"Raising loans or selling gold — it doesn't really matter which — buys us more time," one analyst said.

"But what we really need after 12 years of civil war is a political solution to our troubles," he added.

Kremlin unveils measures to boost farm yields

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union, faced with persistent agricultural problems, issued directives Thursday for boosting yields and reducing dependence on grain imports from the West.

The Kremlin leadership ordered the vast Soviet agricultural bureaucracy to make better use of advanced technology, improve land-reclaiming schemes and fertiliser use, develop ecological protection programmes and improve food storage and processing.

The instructions were published in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda as official figures showed this year's harvest is proceeding at a considerably slower pace than last year's.

By last Monday, grain had been harvested from only 38.4 million hectares (99.4 million acres), compared with 50.9 million hectares (125.8 million acres) by the equivalent time last year, the State Committee for Statistics said.

Western experts said planting delays, caused by a severe winter and a late, wet spring in the Ukraine and southern Russia, explained the lag and meant the official harvest target of 232 million tonnes was unlikely to be met.

The Soviet press has said this year's harvest will be the same as, or better than, the 1986 crop of 210 million tonnes. The U.S. Agriculture Department this week raised its forecast for this year's crop to 205 million tonnes from 195 million.

The Kremlin's instructions called on Gosagroprom, the super-ministry for agricultural affairs,

to award farm managers and specialists bonuses of up to 25 per cent of their normal pay if they raise production.

The leadership said farm directors who placed orders for equipment which was proven in the field to produce better results would share up to 50 per cent of the profit obtained with the designers of the machinery.

Scientific and research institutes must boost contacts with state and collective farms to speed up the introduction of new technologies such as genetic engineering, and technicians and farm managers are to retrain for two months, it said.

Under the instructions, agricultural research and design centres are to start converting to a self-financing basis next year.

This process has already begun in industry with the goal of increasing labour productivity and profit incentives.

Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, who specialised in agriculture before he took office in March 1985, has sought to boost yields of grain, meat and dairy products by offering incentives to farmers to grow more on their private plots.

But the agricultural daily Selskaya Zhizn said Thursday many farmers were prevented from using their initiative and, for example, rearing their own cows because of a countrywide shortage of fodder.

The newspaper estimated meat output would rise by 800,000 tonnes if every farmer in the Russian Federation, the largest Soviet republic, had his own cow.

Bankers fear problems for Gulf Arab economies

BAHRAIN (R) — Hopes of early economic recovery in the Gulf region have been dashed by violence in the Muslim holy city of Mecca and the threat of a clash between Iran and the Western powers.

Gulf-based bankers reported clear signs that foreign banks were retrenching still further and shying away from new business, particularly in Saudi Arabia.

Locally-based banks, committed to the Gulf countries, have little choice but to hang on and hope the United Nations can end the Iran-Iraq war.

Bankers said the deaths of hundreds of Iranian pilgrims in Mecca's violence two weeks ago and the ensuing war of words between Saudi Arabia and Iran shattered a tacit accord between the two powers which had begun to stimulate economic recovery.

Cooperation between Riyadh and Tehran within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to drive oil prices up to \$18 per barrel benefited the whole region after the disastrous impact on state revenues last year when the market slumped below \$10.

But one banker said: "Mutual recriminations over the deaths in Mecca have led to a whole new ball game ... with the area so tense, any bank is going to think very hard before doing new business."

Iran accused Saudi Arabia of shooting its pilgrims. Riyadh denied the charge and said most of those killed were trampled in a stampede provoked by Iranian demonstrators.

One banker said the Mecca deaths reinforced fears which had dominated the Gulf since the Iran-Iraq war began — whether Iranian fundamentalism could destabilise a region where Arab states had so far preserved stability.

Bankers aid the steady escalation of the Gulf war this year, starting with Iran's offensive

against Basra and culminating in U.S. escorts of Kuwaiti tankers, had already diminished prospects of economic recovery.

They estimate the economies of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates contracted last year by an average 9.5 per cent.

Economists were optimistic earlier this year that 1987 would see the first upturn since 1982-83. Higher oil prices will probably lead to modest renewed growth on paper, but non-oil gross domestic product is still weak.

Signs of nervousness have been growing. The impact has been most pronounced on banking strategy while stock and money markets — generally little developed in the Gulf — have shown only modest reaction.

Some foreign banks, already wary of corporate business in Saudi Arabia after running into debt repayment problems, are waiting for the row over the Mecca deaths to subside before extending new loans.

A growing market in "debt swaps" has emerged as foreign banks, particularly American, switch out of Saudi loans in return for taking Latin American debt off the hands of local banks.

Arab banks are keen to reduce their Latin American exposure, estimated by bankers at about \$4 billion.

One European banker said: "Lending to small or middle-tier Saudi firms is off limits after Mecca ... some American banks are reducing exposure by using the swaps market."

Banking in Bahrain is still shrinking. Assets of about 70 offshore banks fell in the first quarter by 5.6 per cent of \$52.53 billion, more than \$10 billion below the 1983 peak before the oil bubble burst. Foreign banks continue to cut staff.

Bankers believe the violence in Mecca is likely to slow further bank banking reforms in Saudi Arabia, where bank profits remain under pressure.

The kingdom's first stock exchange floor closed after a brief experiment earlier this year and plans to set up a new system for handling debt disputes appear to be on the back burner, bankers said.

Bankers said both the stock floor and banking reform were vital to stimulate domestic and foreign investment, but any moves towards Western-style banking practices would be almost impossible in the post-Mecca climate.

Saudi authorities stress the kingdom's role as guardian of Mecca and Medina, the two holiest cities in the Muslim faith, and bankers believe religious conservatives are likely to question far-reaching banking reform.

Gulf currencies have remained remarkably stable. The Saudi riyal has held firm at its 3.75 parity to the dollar in contrast to a year ago when weak oil prices sparked devaluation rumours.

But Saudi interest rates have been pushed modestly higher and in Kuwait, within earshot of the Gulf war front, the central bank has been careful to provide the money markets with ample liquidity to calm nerves.

There are also fears that the few remaining big projects in the Gulf will be delayed, foremost among them a \$1 billion offshore gas development in Qatar.

Additional oil revenues are not certain to be pumped back into Gulf economies. Western military sources say defence costs are rising, with major Gulf states now studying a joint purchase of minesweepers to clear shipping lanes.

S. Korean industry suffers badly

SEOUL (AP) — Industrial production suffered nationwide losses of more than \$200 million and exports have slowed due to strikes that have crippled South Korea's economy, the government said Friday.

Trade and industry ministry officials said exports in the first 10 days of August totalled \$692 million, up 23.3 per cent from the same period last year but far down from comparable periods in recent months. In June and July, exports rose 70 and 49.2 per cent respectively, they said.

The labour ministry said strikes were under way Friday at 229 work places throughout the country, an increase of 46 from the previous day, when 110 new strikes erupted by 64 were settled.

The Hyundai shipyard, the nation's largest, halted operation again Friday when a group of about 1,000 workers urged comrades to stop working and vote on the proposed formation of a

"democratic union." The shipyard, located in Ulsan on the southeast coast, resumed operation Tuesday after several days of suspension.

Shipyard officials said the group opposed to the existing union, alleging it was pro-management.

Ministry officials and industry sources said most new strikes in recent days involved small or medium companies, in contrast to earlier stoppages at big manufacturers.

No figures were available on the number of workers idled by the strikes, but it was believed to be in the hundreds of thousands.

Trade and industry Minister Rha Woong-Bae testified before a national assembly committee on Thursday that if current labour unrest continued, foreign buyers would eventually begin importing from other countries.

The Korea Development Institute, a government advisory group, said the current labour

unrest could force the country's current account surplus to drop from the original projection of \$8 billion to as low as \$5.8 billion.

The strikes, which have spread rapidly during the past three weeks, have affected the country's five auto makers, as well as about 600 major auto part and component suppliers, shipyards, textile mills, coal mines, transportation services, electronics, footwear, food processing and beverage industries.

The demands for higher wages, better working conditions and the right to form free unions, follow the government's acceptance last month of democratic reforms, including relaxation of curbs on strikes.

Mr. Roh Tae-Woo, president of the governing Democratic Justice Party, told foreign reporters Thursday that the outbursts arose from an accumulation of grievances. He said labour thinks it should have more of a fair share of South Korea's wealth.

THE Daily Crossword by Robert O. Wilson

ACROSS

- 1 Holding device
- 2 Name poem
- 3 Type of note
- 4 Tail
- 5 Body of an organism
- 6 US city
- 7 Mountain crest
- 8 "Mom"
- 9 BOO
- 10 Almond
- 11 Fungus
- 12 Private
- 13 Surname
- 14 Survey mark
- 15 Sub. subj.
- 16 Period of time
- 17 Fish sauce
- 18 Consider
- 19 Poem
- 20 Start of an Elizabethan poem
- 21 Slight part
- 22 Unusual thing
- 23 Ancient chariot
- 24 Cumbach of symptoms
- 25 Fiction
- 26 Leader abbr.
- 27 Clasp
- 28 Beakless
- 29 Time periods
- 30 Make lace
- 31 Ape
- 32 Harlequin
- 33 Crevasse
- 34 Goddess of discord
- 35 Slog
- 36 Slanderer
- 37 Of right mind
- 38 Active persons

DOWN

- 1 Partner
- 2 Musically slow
- 3 Aids
- 4 Whiskies
- 5 Shown
- 6 Sex. city
- 7 Gay opus
- 8 Devilish child
- 9 Subterranean cemetery
- 10 NY city
- 11 Judge's attire
- 12 Midwest gulf
- 13 Gentlemen
- 14 Vivacity
- 15 Work unit
- 16 Georgia
- 17 Nasty look
- 18 Objects of worship
- 19 Rite
- 20 Origin
- 21 Shortened form for short
- 22 Stringed instrument
- 23 Kin of etc.
- 24 Sand piles
- 25 Dutch commune
- 26 Verbs
- 27 Shown
- 28 Opposed
- 29 Words of understanding
- 30 Greek god
- 31 Malay cases
- 32 Dutch
- 33 Quiff's relative
- 34 Melville opus
- 35 Male animal
- 36 Ireland
- 37 pro nobis
- 38 Old sure

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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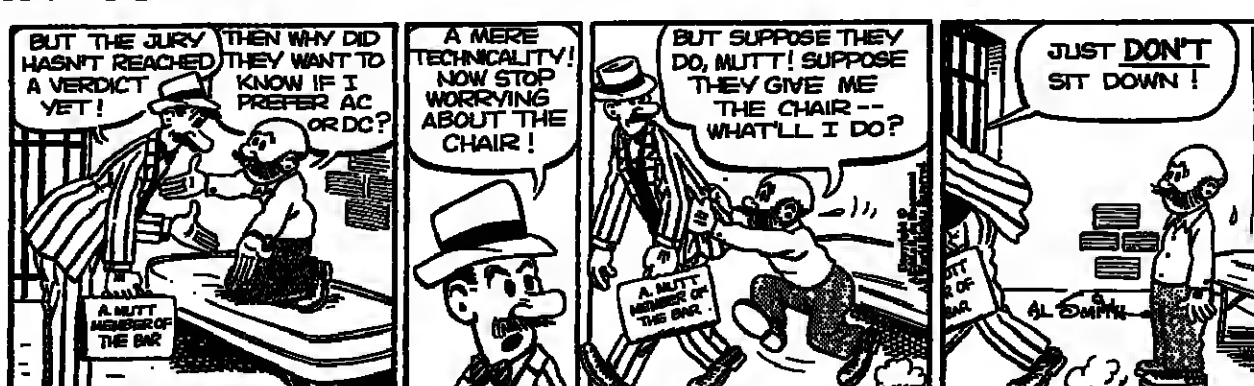
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Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

POASY
MARFE
YORRAS
ENCUB



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O O O O O O O"

Yesterday's Jumbles PHOTO BALKY CATTLE JAIL ED
Answer: They called that economic inventory a crackpot until he did the — HIT THE JACKPOT

Seoul opposition leaders call for talks with Chun

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Opposition leaders Kim Young-Sam and Kim Dae-Jung Friday proposed an immediate meeting with President Chun Doo-Hwan and the head of the governing party to discuss the release of political prisoners.

The two Kims called for Mr. Chun and Democratic Justice Party President Roh Tae-Woo to accept their call, asserting that the question of the release of political prisoners constituted "the biggest obstacle to the democratisation" of the country, aides to Kim Young-Sam said.

The request was made in a statement read by Mr. Kim Young-Sam before family members of political prisoners who met with the two opposition leaders to urge them to exert more efforts to seek freedom for those remaining in prison, the aides said.

There was no immediate response from Mr. Chun or Mr. Roh.

The proposal came soon after human rights discussions in the National Assembly failed to agree on the opposition's demand for the release of prisoners of conscience.

Kim Young-Sam is president of the main opposition Reunification Democratic Party (RDP), and Kim Dae-Jung is a permanent adviser to the party.

The London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International said in a statement Wednesday that despite recent releases, more than two dozen political prisoners are still behind bars and should be freed.

Some Korean opposition people claim there are at least 300 political prisoners still held.

The government has announced about 1,300 prisoners will be freed Saturday, on the anniversary of South Korea's national liberation, but that no political prisoners will be included.

The government freed several hundred political prisoners last month in a gesture seeking national reconciliation and democratic reforms. It did not free those who remain in custody because they have been accused or convicted for crimes such as arson or violation of the national security law.

Meanwhile the head of South Korea's military pledged Thursday to support democratic reforms, saying the military should remain neutral in politics "in any case."

Defence Minister Chung Ho-Yong told a National Assembly subcommittee that the military would "accomplish its duty" in progress toward democracy.

"The military must be granted neutrality without interference from anyone else. It is my belief that the military should not interfere in politics in any case," Mr. Chung said.

The military has a long history of political intervention and helped install the current government.

Opposition lawmakers have demanded that Chun take an oath pledging the military's neutrality and loyalty to the government that is to be elected under a new constitution encompassing democratic reforms.

Mr. Chung rejected the demand. But he said that if the next president is constitutionally elected, the military will be obliged to loyalty.

Asked about reports that high-ranking army officers, including the chief of staff, complained recently that opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung is too radical to run for president, Mr. Chung said they were just expressing their own personal opinions in a private setting.

The opposition has not yet announced a candidate to run against Mr. Roh, but it is expected to be Mr. Kim Dae-Jung or fellow opposition leader, Kim Young-Sam.

Earlier, Mr. Roh, president Chun's hand-picked successor, said "it is a candidate's fair contest with the support of the people, the military will respect it."

Both Mr. Chung and Mr. Roh are former army generals who helped when Mr. Chun, their military academy classmate, seized power after the assassination of President Park Chung-Hee in 1979.

U.S. agents question pilot who flew close to Reagan helicopter

SANTA BARBARA, California (AP) — Secret service agents questioned the pilot of a small airplane that nearly collided with President Ronald Reagan's helicopter.

Mr. Reagan and his aides did not notice the Piper Archer aircraft flying in restricted airspace over the president's Rancho Del Cielo in southern California on Thursday.

His wife, Nancy, was not on board. She plans to join the president later to begin their 25-day California vacation.

At its closest point, the plane was about 76 metres in front of the helicopter and about 46 metres below it — within the distance classified as a near-collision by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The FAA has begun an investigation.

Secret service spokesman Rich Adams said the plane landed at an airport about 160 kilometres south of Santa Barbara. The pilot and a passenger were detained for questioning about their "motives and intent."

Early Friday, secret service agents escorted a man who apparently was the pilot from the airport terminal to a waiting car. The man was not in handcuffs, but he walked with a gray leather jacket covering his head.

Witnesses said that after initial questioning, the passenger and a third man who met the two when they landed, were released.

Law enforcement officials declined to make any comment on the progress of the inquiry.

Reagan to give Central American plan a chance

SANTA BARBARA, California (R) — President Reagan has made clear he wants to give the Central American peace plan a chance, but his aides say he could still seek new aid for the contra rebels in Nicaragua.

"We're going the extra mile with this plan — real negotiations with a firm timetable," Mr. Reagan said Thursday "all we are saying is: Give democracy a chance."

He made his comments in Nebraska on route to a California vacation one day after his televised address to the nation in which he sought to turn the page on the Iran-contra scandal.

The peace plan adopted by leaders of five Central American nations last week has been attacked by conservatives who complain it does not compel withdrawal of Cuban and Soviet Bloc personnel from Nicaragua and undercuts the U.S.-backed contras.

Mr. Reagan said the United States was ready to work with those in the region who sought peace.

But he added that "it must be consistent with the interests of the United States and it must be consistent with the interests of those fighting for freedom in Nicaragua."

Mr. Reagan did not mention U.S. aid to the contras. But White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker told reporters that the president could decide on Sept. 30 whether to seek more aid to follow the \$100-million aid package that runs out on that date.

Proponents of the peace plan are urging Mr. Reagan to hold off requesting more aid.

"Going into that decision will be such things as whether realistic progress is being made, whether substantial progress is being made or even promising progress is being made," Mr. Baker said.

Mr. Reagan's National Security Adviser Frank Carlucci said

the president was committed to supporting the contras "and that support will continue until ... there is a satisfactory nexus with the peace plan that puts in place democratic reforms."

An official told reporters on Reagan's plane that the contras were an "insurance policy."

He said the administration planned to address the contra funding issue in a way that would insure continued contra support "until we are all satisfied that there is a peace plan that will insure the peaceful reintegration and democratisation of Nicaragua."

Mr. Reagan did not say what timetable he was referring to in his speech.

A peace plan worked out by House Speaker Texas Democrat Jim Wright and adopted by Mr. Reagan called for a 60-day ceasefire, during which the Nicaraguan government would have to set an election timetable and make reforms. That plan had a Sept. 30 deadline.

The plan drafted by Costa Rica President Oscar Arias and adopted by five Central American presidential last week set a 90-day deadline.

State Department officials have said that the U.S. plan has been superseded by the regional plan but the White House has backed away from conceding that the American proposal is on the back burner.

On Thursday a White House official aboard Mr. Reagan's plane told reporters "we haven't walked away from the Reagan-Wright plan" which he said "leaves clearly in place a deadline."

Meanwhile senior government officials have received a new intelligence assessment claiming that the U.S.-backed contras are seizing the "tactical initiative" in fighting against the Nicaraguan government.

COLUMNS 7G-8

Man believed dead wakes up

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — A 65-year-old man given up for dead shocked his relatives when he sat up while being given the last rites and asked why everyone was crying, a newspaper has reported. Munir Mahidin had been ill for a week with asthma at his house in Pontian, 300 kilometres south of Kuala Lumpur, the New Straits Times reported. His wife, Som Kosim, his eight children and neighbours believed he was dead when his constant coughing stopped, his pulse appeared to have stopped, and his body became cold and motionless Sunday morning, the daily said. About four hours later, when the last rites were being administered at the house and before he was to be carried outside the home for burial, Munir woke up, the newspaper said. The mourners cry of sadness turned into a cry of joy, the daily said, adding that Munir is now well on the road to recovery.

'Everest still highest in the world'

PEKING (R) — China insists that Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world, despite claims by a U.S. climbing team earlier this year that it is only number two. The New China News Agency has said Chinese cartographers measure Everest, on the border between Nepal and China, at 8,848.13 metres (29,029 feet), 237 metres (778 feet) higher than Mount Qogir in the Karakorum Mountains on the Sino-Pakistan border. It said a U.S. team climbed Qogir in March and April and said it was 38 metres (125 feet) higher than Everest. But the Chinese cartographers stick to their view that Qogir is only 8,611 metres (28,251 feet).

Crocodiles go on 'hunger strike'

MOSCOW (R) — Crocodiles at the Moscow Zoo have gone on "hunger strike" after an uncomfortable move to new quarters, the Moscow Communist Party newspaper said Friday. A 250-kilo (550-pound) Mississippi alligator and crocodiles began to turn their snouts up at food after workers moved them to new quarters during building work on the reptile house in a severe cold snap last winter, Moskovskaya Pravda said. "They have already been on hunger strike for several months," the newspaper said. It said a giant Anaconda, a python and a boa constrictor had died during the same period, while many animals had stopped reproducing due to havoc caused by the work. The newspaper said better conditions for zoo animals in the Soviet capital were long overdue, but bureaucratic mismanagement had bungled efforts to find them a new home. It suggested foreign firms be brought in to design a better zoo complex, no matter what the cost. "The fate of the capital's zoo must be decided today, now," the newspaper said.

Eel hogs Bochum bath for 16 years

BOCHUM, West Germany (R) — A big, bleached eel in the family tub stopped the Richters of Bochum from taking a bath Friday, but it's been going on for 16 years so they did not mind. The slippery lodger came to light when Hannelore Richter had to report her parrot to the Ruhr City's health authorities and mentioned Alfred among her many other pets. "He can't really do any tricks like jumping through a hoop, but he coils around your finger," she said. "He's absolutely no bother, except when the cat takes the plug out, and he's got to be the cleanest creature for miles." The 60 cm (two-foot) eel, featured at the weekend in a television talk show, was black when Paul Richter caught him in a river and brought him home. But he has faded to a fine olive in the chlorinated tap water of his adopted home. When the Richters do take baths in the course of a week, Alfred is parked in a bucket.

Elusive boa appears in bathroom

HAMILTON, Ontario (AP) — A boa constrictor in the toilet might seem funny in a Mel Brooks movie, but the real thing's been no joke for the Lamotte family. A neighbour's pet boa is lodged in the drainpipes under their bathroom, and made an appearance in their toilet bowl on Sunday. "I looked down and saw this pair of eyes looking at me and a tongue going in and out," said Laurie Lamotte, mother of two. "I shouted to my husband, 'there's a snake in the bathroom.'" Since then, the Hamilton Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has removed the toilet in the Lamotte's 12th-storey apartment and tried to lure the 6-foot-6 (two-metre) snake into the open by placing dead rats on the floor. The snake ate one of the rats Tuesday morning when no one was watching but disappeared back down the drain, which runs horizontally under the floor. "It's still in the same place but we're pretty confident we'll get it out in the next day or so," SPCA official Robert Morrison told the Associated Press Wednesday. The snake's owner will face a fine of \$3.75 dollar (\$40) for keeping an illegal pet in the 15-storey building, unless he removes it from the city as soon as it is recovered, Morrison said.

3 held after slow getaway in robbery

BERLIN BOROUGH, New Jersey (AP) — Three bank robbers just couldn't get it in gear, police said. After getting \$1,410 in a holdup, the three hopped into a getaway car only to find the transmission stuck in first gear, police said. After a relatively low-speed chase, they gave up on the car and tried fleeing on foot. They couldn't outrun police, either. They were captured in a parking lot in nearby Gibbstown minutes after the robbery, police said. During the robbery, two of the holdup men, dressed in business suits, drew handguns and ordered seven employees and six customers to lie on the floor, said detective David Smith. No shots were fired and no one was hurt. Emmanuel Brown, 39; Joseph Lofton, 42; and Gregory Morrison, 31, all of Philadelphia, were charged with bank robbery and aiding and abetting a crime and were held without bail for a hearing Thursday, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Howard Wiener.

3,000-year-old Necropolis found

CELANO, Italy (R) — Archaeologists have said they had discovered a Necropolis dating back 3,000 years in the Abruzzi Hills in central Italy. They said the circular stone Necropolis contained skeletons lying in hollowed-out tree trunks — the first discovery in central Italy of this particular ancient burial practice. Household objects and crude weapons were also found on the site. The discovery follows a big archaeological find last month: a few kilometres from Celano of thousands of tombs believed to date back seven or eight centuries before Christ.

Bachelor town offers women free tickets

STOCKHOLM (R) — In a matchmaking drive to combat a shortage of brides, a remote Swedish town is offering women from Scandinavia to Britain a chance to meet eager bachelors. Pajala, a forest-ringed town of 8,700 people above the Arctic circle, has 104 eligible bachelors and 39 single females. All the other prospective brides have fled south to find jobs. A committee organising the Sept. 28-Oct. 4 "rouppavikko" (romp week) Festival, traditionally the post-harvest week of dancing and mating, is offering women in Stockholm, Helsinki and Oslo free rides to Pajala by chartered bus. "We've received lots of letters. At least 100 women will be coming," said committee Chairman Lars-Olof Snell. He said the town would try to arrange cheap air and train fares for British women, who had made inquiries after reading about the romp festival in the British press. Snell said Pajala was predicated by inviting out-of-town women to a matchmaking fiesta. Not everybody in Pajala is excited by the prospect of an invasion of likely brides. The Women's League of the town's ruling Social Democrats has described the project as embarrassing and "bordering on procurement." Pajala struggles to make a livelihood from forestry near the Finnish border. Nightlife consists of weekly dances at the hotel, the only place in town allowed to serve alcohol. The men of Pajala are strong, silent and conservative. Birgitta Notsten of the town's tourist office told Reuters, adding: "The blokes up here are rooted to the soil."

4 die, 63 hurt in S. Korean explosion

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — An explosion ripped through a chemical warehouse Friday morning near Seoul's Kimpoo International Airport and a housing development, killing four people and injuring at least 63, police said.

Police could not confirm the numbers, but newspapers said about 100 people were injured and that the number of dead would probably rise because as many as six people were reported missing.

Fireballs and debris shot up to 300 metres into the sky, said police. Two oil tank trucks were completely crumpled by the explosion, which also ripped a hole in the ground five metres deep.

The blast demolished four homes and damaged hundreds of buildings and houses around the warehouse, which was used to store inflammable chemicals such as methanol and nitroglycerin.

Police said an 8-year-old girl died when she was hit by debris from her house, and 63 people

injured. Three charred bodies, believed to be those of warehouse workers, were found after the blaze was controlled shortly before noon.

Rescue workers were digging through debris for other possible victims.

The blast at the warehouse, about 500 metres from a runway at Kimpoo, shattered scores of windows in airport buildings, although airport operations were not affected.

Blasts mar Pakistan Independence Day

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan marked its 40th anniversary Friday with celebrations overshadowed by a wave of mystery bomb attacks which killed almost 100 people in the past few weeks.

In his Independence Day message, President Mohammad Zia ul Haq expressed sympathy for the victims while opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said there was little to celebrate.

Authorities in North West Frontier province cancelled all displays of coloured lights on public buildings out of respect for bomb victims.

Thirteen people were killed on Tuesday and some 45 injured by

three bombs which exploded within half an hour of each other in Mardan near the provincial capital Peshawar.

It was the latest in a series of unexplained attacks widely believed to be linked to Pakistani support for Afghan rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government of neighbouring Afghanistan.

Gen. Zia, who seized power in a coup in 1977, said the whole nation of more than 100 million expressed its sympathy for the victims.

"I am confident that instead of demoralising the nation, such in-

cidents will fortify its resolve and determination," he said. "We know how to die for principles and live in freedom."

Ms. Bhutto, whose father, former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was overthrown by Gen. Zia and later executed, devoted much of her statement to attacking the military leader.

"Should we celebrate having brought the Afghan war into our streets and bazaars? Should we celebrate the ethnic violence that is tearing our society into shreds? Should we celebrate the plight of our deteriorating economy?" she said.

Epidemic hits flood-ravaged Bangladesh; death toll rises

DHAKA (R) — A fast-spreading diarrhoea epidemic killed at least 40 people in northern Bangladesh Thursday, raising the death toll in the area's worst flooding to more than 350, officials said Friday.

More than 8,000 others were infected by the disease, caused by drinking polluted water, in the flooded districts of Rangpur, Dinajpur, Bogra and Lalmonirhat, they told reporters.

Nearly 120 medical teams, helped by the army and civilian doctors, were trying to contain

the epidemic, but with little success.

The official BSS news agency Thursday night quoted a government statement in Dhaka as saying that only 126 flood deaths were confirmed so far.

Officials at the worst-hit Dinajpur said Friday nearly 75,000 people had taken refuge in high-rise buildings and temporary camps there.

Floods have also inundated the neighbouring town of Thakurgaon.

10 killed, 17 injured in Brazil building collapse

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — At least 10 people were killed and 17 injured in the collapse of a 13-story building under construction in the city of Belem in northern Brazil, officials said.

The residential building, due to open next January but condemned last February, collapsed late Thursday afternoon when at least 45 workers were still at their jobs.

Ten bodies were recovered from the building rubble, but a rescue soldier said the death toll could rise sharply because the 60,000 tonnes of concrete also destroyed a small religious temple next to the building and no one knew exactly how many people were there.

He said that the fire brigade was not properly equipped for the rescue operation. The armed forces and local demolition companies were called to cooperate in the rescue.

"I had gone out for a coffee break and all of a sudden I heard an explosion. The building collapsed as if by implosion," a worker said on television.

A television report said the construction company had been working on strengthening of the building's foundations and was given by the civil defence until September to get the work done, otherwise the building would have to be implored.

It was the second fatal accident in two days in Brazil's northern Para state. On Monday, nine prospectors died in an open quarry accident at the Serra Pelada Gold Mine.

Typhoon kills 11 in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Typhoon Betty battered the Philippines, with heavy rains and winds, killing at least 11 people and leaving nearly 30,000 homeless before it swept out into the South China Sea.

Local officials estimated the storm caused a total of 120 million pesos (\$6 million) damage in Batangas and Samar provinces alone.

Chief government meteorologist Amado Pineda said another tropical storm, Cary, had appeared some 970 kilometres south east of Luzon. He said it had winds of 85 kilometres an hour, but likely would intensify as it approached the Philippines.

Norway proposes former premier for top NATO job

BRUSSELS (R) — Norway has formally presented former Prime Minister Kaare Willoch as candidate for secretary-general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, a NATO spokesman said Friday.

National delegations to NATO had been informed and the Norwegian government had made bilateral moves in allied capitals, the spokesman said.

Mr. Willoch, 58, is the first confirmed candidate to succeed Britain's Lord Carrington, who has told the allies he will step down next year after four years in office.

Mr. Willoch, a conservative, was regarded as a trusted Washington ally while prime minister from October 1981 to May 1986. NATO officials cautioned that

though Willoch had formally presented his candidacy this did not mean he would necessarily get the alliance's top political job.

Others said to be in the running for the post are West German Defence Minister Manfred Wöerner and Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans.

Apart from the backing of his government, a candidate for NATO secretary-general has to receive an informal consensus of support from all the other 15 allies. He is formally appointed by alliance foreign ministers.

The post is traditionally held by a European because an American always occupies the military post of supreme allied commander Europe.

It is open-ended in term and the salary is decided by negotiation.

Lange tipped to win today's elections

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand's politicians returned home Friday to rest after weeks of campaigning and to await the judgment of 2.1 million voters in an election widely expected to confirm the Labour Party in power.

Only the most committed supporters of the opposition National Party believed it might win Saturday. No political commentator, columnist or newspaper editor backed them.

The media were convinced that Prime Minister David Lange's Labour Party would be given another three-year term.

One opinion poll published Friday gave Labour a 15 percentage point lead over National, down from 21 points a month ago but enough to increase Labour's 17-seat majority in the 97-seat parliament.

Some newspapers that normally support National spoke up for Labour, although the Dominion in Wellington said it had no intention of telling anyone how to vote.

The New Zealand Herald said the election was largely a referendum on Labour's economic policies, making its return to office more likely.

Dunedin's Otago Daily Times said Labour deserved the chance to prove these policies.

The Christchurch Star said the reforms offered a better hope for the future than any alternatives advanced by National. "In the circumstances it is not unreasonable to ask for extra time, especially in view of the patience the electorate accorded the previous administration."

Mr. Lange ended his campaign in his home city of Auckland. National leader Jim Bolger also spent part of the day there before flying home to his farm in the central North Island.

The dollar closed at 58.39 U.S. cents against 57.69 cents Thursday. Dealers said there had been large buying orders from Singapore.

The leading share index rose 25.43 points to 3,686.49. Brokers attributed the increase to a lack of sellers and demand from traders anticipating a Labour win.

The electoral office said 28 New Zealanders in Antarctica and on remote islands have already voted by radio, the first time this method has been used.

Three more votes are expected from members of an Antarctic expedition mounted by the Greenpeace Environmental Organisation. They must walk for half a day to New Zealand's Scott Base.

Voting for the House of Representatives, the only chamber in parliament, begins at 9 a.m. (2100 GMT Friday) and ends at 7 p.m. (0700 GMT).

First results are expected soon after 8 p.m. (0800 GMT) and the winner by about 10 p.m.

Soviet officials criticised over nationalism

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet writer criticised Communist Party and state officials Friday for failing to curb nationalist sentiments among some of the country's more than 100 nationalities.

Edward Bagramov, writing in the party newspaper Pravda, said some Soviet nationalities were taking such pride in their history and folklore that it was clear propagandists were failing to inculcate a distinctive Soviet patriotism.

Bagramov was writing after officially reported outbreaks of nationalism in the past year in republics as varied as Latvia on the Baltic Coast, Moldavia on the Romanian border and the Central Asian Republics of Kazakhstan and Kirgizia.

In Kazakhstan, two people died in riots after a Russian was selected last December as the

new party leader. Last month, Crimean Tatars seeking to return to the homeland from which they were deported in 1944 demonstrated in central Moscow.

Bagramov supplied no new details of these incidents but said: "misunderstandings, even disputes, sometimes arise in relations between neighbouring districts and regions of different republics."

"People have arguments in corridors. But party and local government workers keep silent about this, do not take principled decisions and do not strive to forestall or extinguish the passions involved."

Bagramov complained that members of some nationalities liked to call themselves Soviet patriots even though they did not treat other nations in the country as equal.

"And if they proclaim themselves patriots, this means we are bad at propagandising Soviet patriotism as an ideology," the writer said.

He said the authorities were keen that people should know Russian as well as the language of the Republic where they worked, but added: "The main thing is that a justified love for your native tongue should not turn into linguistic chauvinism."

"Socialism has disproved the myth that antagonism between nations is ineradicable. The national factor in our country has long ceased to divide people," he said.

"Nonetheless the susceptibility of part of the population to national problems, because of historical reasons and the multinational character of the country, is still appreciable."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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SELF-IMPOSED PENALTY

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q 10 4
♥ Q J 6
♦ A K Q
♣ K 7 6

WEST
♠ 8 7 6 3
♥ 9 6 4 2
♦ J 10 9
♣ 2 2

EAST
♠ 9 5 2
♥ A K 8
♦ 9 7 6 4 3
♣ 10 5

SOUTH
♠ K J
♥ 10 7 3
♦ 5 2
♣ A Q J 9 8 4

The bidding:
North East South West
2 NT Pass 6 NT Pass
Pass Double 7 ♠ Pass
Pass Double Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

We've said it before and we'll say it again: "Bill Root is acknowledged as the country's best bridge teacher." If we had any lingering doubts, they were dispelled by his new book, "Commonsense Bidding" (Crown Publishers, 216 pp., hard cover, \$19.95; paperback, \$9.95). In clear, easy-to-follow prose he has set out a simple system that is sure to bring many

points to those who elect to use it. Many players believe that any two tricks justify a double of a slam. This tale of what happened to one of the world's best players should quickly disillusion them.

"He was on lead against 6 NT and could win the first two tricks with the ace and king of hearts. His opponents were two young men he had never seen before, so he took a chance and doubled. His left-hand opponent realized the expert must have the first two tricks to double 6 NT (probably A-K in a suit), so he bid seven clubs. Our expert doubled again, but now his partner had the opening lead and had to choose between leading a diamond, heart, or spade. He chose to lead a diamond..."

"As you can see, with a diamond lead South could win all thirteen tricks and score up